



The Miyazawa doctrine

Why Asia is now the linchpin of Japanese foreign policy



**Britain's Labour Party** 

Between cloth cap and Clintonism



Diamonds sparkle again

De Beers restores stability to the world market

**European strategies** 

Berghaus shakes up its distribution

Page &



# FINANCIAL TIMES

Europe's Business Newspaper

#### **US and EC seek** to resolve Gatt talks this week

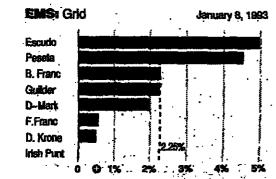
US and EC negotiators are meeting in Geneva in an effort to resolve outstanding differences in the Uruguay round of trade talks before US president-elect Bill Clinton takes office on January 20. Since the US and EC settled farm trade wrangles last November, the six-year-old round has been beset by several other disagreements and by political uncertainties on both sides of the Atlantic Trade diplomats nevertheless hope that an outline deal can be agreed by next Friday. Page 12

Italy to launch DM4bn Eurobond issue: The Italian government, absent from international capital markets for two years, is expected to launch a DM4bn (\$2.5hn) Eurobonds issue to supplement depleted foreign currency reserves. Page 12

**Hanson,** UK conglomerate, is understood to have arranged to swap its gold mining operations in the US for the coal business of Santa Fe Pacific, the railroads and minerals group in a deal estimated to be worth \$500m on each side. Page 13

Clinton warned on tax cuts: US presidentelect Bill Clinton has been advised by Tom Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, to rethink his pledge to cut income taxes because of the growing federal budget deficit. Page 4

European Monetary System: The French franc starts the week looking a little stronger in the European exchange rate mechanism's grid, following last week's small cut in the Bundesbank's money market rates. It jumped one place at the end of last week, overtaking the Danish krone, and is now third from bottom of the table. The punt continues to look under pressure after a week in which it persistently traded below its ERM floor against two currencies, the Belgian franc and Dutch guilder. Currencies, Page 28



The chart shows the member currencies of the exchange rate mechanism measured against the weakest currency in the EMS's narrow 2.25 per cent fluctuation band. In practice, currencies in the narrow band cannot rise more than 2.25 p cent from the weakest currency in that part of the system. The Spanish peseta and Portugues escudo operate with 6 per cent fluctuation bands.

Irish parties unites Ireland's opposition Labour party ended almost two months of political uncertainty by approving a coalition deal with acting prime minister Albert Reynolds' Flanna Fail party. Earlier story, Page 2

Trafalgar House, construction, engineering and shipping group, has won a contract worth more than £100m (\$152m) to build a coking plant for Bethlehem Steel in the US. Page 13

Bombay riots continue: Indian prime minister Narasimha Rao cancelled a visit to Bangladesh as Bombay and parts of Gujarat state saw the sixth day of Hindu-Moslem riots that have resulted in at least 168 deaths. Page 5

Angolan battle rages: Angolan army troops and rebels continue to fight for control of Huambo, despite government claims that it had captured the stronghold of Unita leader Jonas Savimbi who, it said, had fled. Page 5

First National Finance Corporation, troubled UK consumer credit group, is expected to ask shareholders for up to £50m (\$75m) in its first rights offering since 1986. Page 14

Mozer pleads guilty: Paul Mozer, former head of government bond trading at US securities house Salomon Brothers, is to plead guilty to criminal charges that he lied about customer bids submitted at a 1991 bond auction. Page 4

Sihanouk climbs down: Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia has reversed a decision he took last week not to co-operate with the UN peackeeping mission in Phnom Penh. Page 4

British Petroleum, UK oil company, already appears to be more than half way towards its 1993 target of raising \$1.5bn through sales of noncore assets. Page 14

Braer route criticised: A former captain of the oil tanker Braer, which ran aground off the Shetland Islands last week, said he would never have sailed between Shetland and Orkney

because the seas were too dangerous. Savoy Hotel's managing director dismissed speculation of a renewed hid from the Forte group following news that the board could not rely on the support of a key investor in any takeover

battle. Page 13 Malawi opposition rally: More than 100,000 people took part in Malawi's first officially approved opposition rally, organisers said. President Kamuzu Banda has agreed to a referendum on multiparty politics, banned since 1966.

Bull by the horns: The first calves whose sex was predetermined at conception have been born in Cambridge, England, a move that could transform livestock production worldwide Page 12

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# Ford may decide to build new Jaguar car in the US

Correspondent, in Detroit

FORD, the US carmaker, is considering the development of a new medium-sized luxury car as its next world car programme in North America and Europe. The programme would include a version for Jaguar, its UK luxury car subsidiary.

The programme opens the possibility of building a car under the Jaguar name for the first time outside the UK, although

Jaguar's preferred option would still be to assemble the vehicle at its main Coventry plant.

The scope of the project under-lines Ford's determination to integrate Jaguar closely into the group, and follows its decision last year to build a new Jaguar engine range at Ford's engine plant at Bridgend, south Wales.

Last week the company unveiled the Ford Mondeo in Europe as part of its first world car project to replace the Ford

Tempo/Mercury Topaz in the US. Since its takeover by Ford three years ago, Jaguar has planned to develop a smaller luxury sports saloon for introduction in the late 1990s to rival products such as the BMW 5 Series and aimed at more than tripling its production by the end

of the decade. Mr Louis Ross, Ford vice-chairman and chief technical officer, said this car and a replacement for Ford of Europe's Ford Granada/Scorpio executive car were

under consideration as derivatives of a possible new Ford world car project, codenamed

A version for North America would be a so-called "near luxury car" that would extend Ford's traditional Lincoln luxury car range and give the US carmaker a product with which to compete in North America against Japanese and European luxury car imports such as the recently unveiled Lexus GS 300, the Infiniti J30, and the BMW 5 Series.

The DEW98 project is not a confirmed programme, and the company has not decided where the European derivative versions would be built. Mr Ross said an important aim of the project was to integrate Jaguar more closely so that its new smaller car would have a common chassis platform

BMW, the German executive and luxury carmaker, announced plans last year to build its first car plant in the US, and Mr Ross said the new Jaguar range could

also be built in North America. "It is possible to build it in the US. It would not take anything away from Browns Lane [Jag-uar's Coventry assembly plant]", as this would be additional volume, he said.

Jaguar's preferred option was to build the car in Coventry, said Mr Ross, but it was still "an open issue . . . they are not adamant, they are willing to consider".

The marketing impact on the

Continued on Page 12

#### Peace talks remain deadlocked

# France may use force over camps in Bosnia

By Robert Mauthner in Geneva and Alice Rawsthorn in Paris

FRANCE said yesterday it was prepared to act alone if necessary to liberate by force Bosnian prisoner camps where civilians are reported to have been raped and

The threat, revealed by Mr Roland Dumas, foreign minister, came as negotiations for a peace settlement remained deadlocked Speaking on France's RTL

radio, Mr Dumas said: "I suggest...we ensure that this liberation is out into effect if necessary by force, since we now have there is evidence of the existence of these camps and of tortures and rape that are committed Mr Dumas said he had asked

the French United Nations commander in Sarajevo, General Philippe Morillon, whether he had the military means to carry out the mission of escorting convoys to the prisoner camps. "He replied in the affirmative."

Any such action would go against the appeal by Mr Boutros

Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, that international military intervention should be delayed to give peace a last chance. Mr Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference on the former Yugoslavia, have made similar appeals.

Mr Dumas's statement, which follows the assassination in Sarajevo on Friday by a Serb militiaman of Mr Hakija Turailic, the Bosnian deputy prime minister, will fuel the debate over possible western military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina. France has taken a stronger line in favour of UN intervention against the tional allies, but has so far heeded the UN negotiatiors' request not to take military action.

French officials said Mr Dumas's plans to liberate the Bosnians from Serbian camps would only be implemented with

the UN's sanction. In Geneva new proposals by

Continued on Page 12 wing, Page 3



#### Iraq denies yielding to US threats

**By Jurek Martin** 

IRAQ continued vesterday to deny it had retreated in the face of the United Nations ultimatum on its missile deployment, but the prospect of an early military strike by the US-led coalition appeared considerably reduced. An official statement issued in Baghdad stated it was "incorrect" to conclude that "Iraq gave in to

colleague, such as Mr Henning Dyremose, minister of finance,

but there is doubt whether a

majority in the parliament would

tolerate a change in prime minis-

The attitude of the parties to

threats from Bush's administration". Simultaneously, Iraq continued to ban internal flights of UN aircraft.

It denied permission yesterday for a UN aircraft to land, and inspectors of the Baghdad office of the UN Special Commission (Unscom) were stranded in Bahrain waiting for permission

On Saturday a White House statement said the US was satis-

fied that Iraq had "backed down" in its latest conflict with the US and its allies.

Yesterday US officials did not think the ban on UN aircraft carring weapons inspectors would necessarily escalate quickly into a confrontation equivalent to last week's, although the potential for this clearly existed.

Some tentative encouragement was also drawn from the Iraqi statement, which hoped for better relations with the incoming government of President-elect Bill Clinton. It accused Mr George Bush of trying to "embroil" Mr Clinton in his poli-

On the other hand the US is still not persuaded that Iraq has fully met the terms of last week's UN ultimatum. Although its

> Continued on Page 12 Editorial Comment, Page 11

#### Danish visas scandal may lead to fall of government

in Copenhagen

POLITICAL TENSIONS are growing in Denmark amid fears that prime minister Mr Poul Schlüter's government might fall following the publication of a report into a scandal involving visas for Tamil refugees, due to be released later this week.

A judicial inquiry was set up to investigate an instruction by the minister of justice in 1987 to civil servants to delay issuing entry visas to Denmark for the rela-tives of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka who were already in the country. It is expected to release a 6,000-page report on Thursday.

The opposition Social Demo-

cratic party, led by Mr Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, hopes to exploit the report to bring down the minority Conservative-Liberal coalition government and return to office after 10 years in opposition.

In the markets, currency analysts are worried that political uncertainty generated by the report could damage the Danish krone, one of the European exchange rate mechanism's weakest currencies. This would follow last week's intense pressure for a devaluation of the French franc and punt in the ERM. "People are worried about the uncertainty that would be caused if Tamilgate led to the

resignation of the government. This would make it difficult to bold the currency up," said Mr Kit Juckes, international economist at Warburgs Securities. The prospect of political turnoil had already frightened people out of the Danish bond market, he

Developments are also being watched in the European Community as Denmark took over the six-month EC presidency at the beginning of this month. Mr Schlüter was not directly

New Irish leaders face

trial by fire ...... .....Page 2

involved in the Tamil affair, but one of the questions which High Court judge Mogens Hornslett's report will seek to answer is whether the prime minister misinformed parliament when he reported on the affair in April, 1989, concluding his speech: "Nothing has been swept under

the carpet If Judge Hornslett's report contains explicit or implied criticism of Mr Schlüter, he will come under strong pressure from the opposition to resign. Mr Schlüter has repeatedly said he will call an election if the opposition tries to "misuse" the report for politi-

the report may take some days to clarify. The Radical Liberal party, whose seven MPs hold the

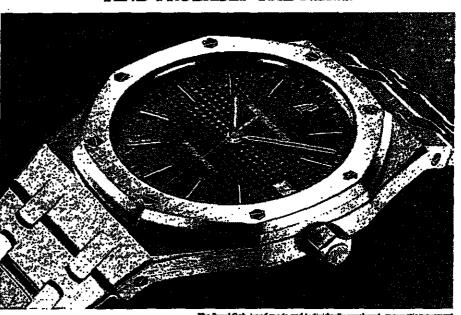
ter in this way.

swing position in the eight-party, 179-member parliament, has said it will make its view known on January 17, after a joint meeting of the party's parliamentary members and the party's national executive committee. It is not clear whether the Radicals want a change of government. The party forms part of the parlia-mentary base for the present gov-ernment, nominating Mr Schlüter for another term after the 1990 election, but does not always vote with the government.

The affair began in 1987, when Mr Erik Ninn-Hansen, veteran Conservative party colleague of the prime minister, in his capac-Ity as minister of justice, ordered civil servants to delay issuing entry visas for relatives of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka who were already in Denmark.

Mr Ninn-Hansen said he was within his rights to order "reduced priority" for processing the visa applications, but the parliamentary ombudsman and other Another possibility is that he legal experts assert that the would hand the baton to a party action was in breach of the law.

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LONDON - PARIS - FRANKFURT - NEW YORK - TOKYO

THE FINANCIAL TIMES LIMITED 1993 No 31,959 Week No 2

Bonn on greater

THE United Nations secretary

nent seat on the UN security

council, or play a greater role

in the organisation, until, and unless, it defines the role of its

UN in talks with President Richard von Welzsäcker, Chan-cellor Helmut Kohl, Mr Klaus

Kinkel, the foreign minister, and leaders of the main parlia-

mentary parties.
UN officials believe the out-

come of the talks could help

the country's main political

parties reach a consensus on how the constitution could be

amended to allow the Bundes-

wehr (German army) to

become more involved in non-

Nato operations outside Ger-

Article 87 of the German con-

stitution stipulates that the

use of German troops must be

limited to self-defence on its

allows Germans to fight along-side allies in joint security

pacts, such as Nato. Since 1949, the federal government has

consistently adopted the politi-

cal position that the constitu-

tion does not allow the deploy-

ment of German forces outside

The mood among some of the

political parties is shifting

towards constitutional amend-

ments enabling German troops

to participate in UN peace-

keeping operations, and UN-backed humanitarian efforts. Any change in the constitu-

tion would require a two-thirds

majority of the Bundestag, and

support from the opposition

Social Democratic Party. So

far, there is little consensus

among the governing coalition of Christian Democratic Union/

Christian Social Union and

Bundeswehr to be engaged in

the Nato area.

own territory, while article 24

army outside Nato.

# Bérégovoy fires election salvo on jobs New Irish UN set to press

MR Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, yesterday kicked off the Socialist party's election campaign by

calling on the next French government to reduce unemployment from 10.5 per cent to 8 per cent by 1998.

Joblessness has emerged as a dominant issue in the approach to France's parliamentary elections in March. The rise in unemployment - now nearing 3m - is one of the biggest sources of embarrassment for Mr Beregovoy and the ruling Socialists, who face an uphill struggle in their attempts to improve their dismal opinion poll per-

Mr Laurent Pablus, first secretary of

the Socialists and the leader of their re-election effort, yesterday acknowledged that unemployment was his par-ty's "major weakness". He told a Social-

ist conference in Paris that the party had to "get to grips with the issue". The right-wing opposition has already begun its attack on their unemploy-ment record. Mr Eduard Balladur, who is tipped to be prime minister of a future right-wing government, warned on television that there would be "hun-dreds of thousands more people without jobs" in the first half of this year as the economic squeeze continued.

However Mr Balladur ruled out the

possibility of artificially stimulating the French economy by devaluing the French franc. "It would be against the national interest," he said. "I will do everything to avoid the franc being

His support for the franc was echoed by Mr Bérégovoy, who, since the Sep-tember currency crisis, has backed the Bank of France's efforts to protect the currency against attacks by the foreign exchange markets.

"As long as I am prime minister the franc will not be devalued," he said in an interview with Journal de Dimanche

Both the left and right are developing plans to restimulate the economy and curb the rise in unemployment be creating jobs. Mr Bérégovoy said his target of 8 per cent jobless by 1998 would be achieved partly by a European Community initiative to cut the working week to 37 hours and partly by employment

The Socialists have already tabled proposals to modernise employment practises by encouraging job sharing and part-time working. Mr Fabius said these reforms should be accelerated to boost job creation through public sector initiatives such as housing pro-

In the meantime the government has to get to grips with the financial prob-lem of the rising social security budget deficit, estimated to have reached FFr30bn (£3.64bn) in the past three years. Ministers are expected this week to announce proposals to allocate an extra FFr20bn to reduce the deficit.

#### leaders face trial by fire

By Tim Coone in Dublin

A NEW coalition government will take office in Ireland this week and will have to confront the country's most serious currency crisis since 1986, when the punt was last devalued. The government is likely to be formed tomorrow following a vote in parliament to elect a

new prime minister. The Labour party was expected to give its final seal of approval last night to the coalition programme, paving the way for a government to

Fianna Fail has been running a minority, caretaker government since the general election last November, in which no party won an abso-

lute majority.

The two parties reaffirmed this weekend that they would continue to support the no-devaluation policy of the out-

going government.
The punt is expected to come under ren wed pressure in the currency markets this week, despite an increase in over-night lending rates to 100 per-cent by the central bank on

Two of Ireland's leading building societies have warned, however, that they may be forced to raise mortgage rates this week if the currency and interest rates crisis continues. Many analysts believe a further mortgage rate increase would deal a crippling blow to the economy and force the government to

Mr Ruari Quinn, the Labour party's economy spokesman, said yesterday that Ireland's currency crisis "is a European political problem requiring a European political response".

Last week Mr Bertie Ahern, the finance minister, expressed disappointment with his EC colleagues for fail-ing to tackle the ERM crisis and called the German agreement to support the French franc a "sweetheart deal" which had not been made available to the other currencies in the central band of the

role for military international operations even outside the auspices of the UN when it is necessary for peace. The SPD wants the Bundesgeneral, Mr Boutros Boutros Ghali, today begins a two-day wehr to be linked directly to any UN security council resoofficial visit to Bonn and will lution, and limited to peace-keeping operations, although the SPD is considering involvetell the German government that it cannot expect a permament in the military protection of humanitarian aid convoys. The FDP wants any peace en-forcing missions by the Bund-eswehr to be carried out under The secretary general will also outline plans to reform the

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the auspices of the UN. "We cannot express our intentions [of any future involvement in the UN] until we have come to grips with this constitutional problem," a Foreign Ministry official said We have to come to grips with this problem over the coming months otherwise we will face a credibility gap with the inter-

Germany, which is the third largest contributor to the UN, has already deployed 1,500 sol-diers in Cambodia in the form of medical back-up and supplies, and has provided aircraft and pilots to help the Somalia relief operation.

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Free Democrats, and the SDP Financial Times (Scandinavia) Vimmelskaftet 42A, DK-1161 Copenhagen-K, Denmark. Telephone (33) 13 44 41. Fax (33) 935325. on the Bundeswehr's future The CDU/CSU want the

#### Christopher Brown-Humes on the fourth financial package in a year

#### Sweden tries again to beat the budget deficit

HEN Ms Anne Wib-ble, Sweden's term flavour to it, incorporat-finance minister, incorporat-Y V finance minister, presents the country's 1993-94 budget today there could be a strong sense of dėja vu about its contents. This, after all, will be the fourth package of finan-cial measures to be proposed by the minority coalition government since this time last year - if you include two crisis packages in September and a third, later withdrawn, when the krona was floated in

As before, the emphasis will be on cutting public spending, however unwelcome this might be for the government when its counterbalancing tax-cutting plans have been stymied by deep recession. In reality it has little choice but to cut further, despite the spending reductions of SKr68bn (£6.3bn) it announced last year, as the

budget deficit is still growing. With gross national product set to decline for the third consecutive year in 1993, the government knows that if it cuts benefits too heavily it risks a further drop in private consumption and a delay to economic recovery. It also knows that if it tries to spend its way tc recovery it might inflame the deficit further.

ing both a strong savings ele-ment and measures that accord with the government's freemarket strategy to encourage private initiative. The trick will be to minimise the nearterm impact on demand while doing enough to convince nervous markets that Sweden is still serious about tackling its budget deficit. According to one leaked

report, a total of SKr90bn in savings will be outlined, but only SKr10bn-12bn of this will take effect in 1993-94, while a further SKr20bn a year will be enforced over the following four years (well after the government's current mandate expires) when the economy should be in better shape.
But many observers feel that

even cuts of this order are not sufficient, in the context of a budget deficit which this fiscal year (1992-93) will reach SKr200bn and is unlikely to be much lower next year. Even SKr10bn in savings next year is only equal to the amount the government was forced to provide in guarantees to just one of its stricken banks last week. If the government is not tougher, it is partly because of

political realities. Its measures

need the support of either the

Social Democrats or the populist right-wing New Democracy party. The Social Democrats, who now command 45-46 per cent popularity ratings in the polls, supported the first two crisis packages but refused to back the third.

In addition, the government has to take account of the effect its actions will have on interest rate and currency

nterest rates have come down since the devaluation, with the central bank's key marginal rate of 10.5 per cent now 2 percentage points below what it was before the krona was freed. However, this is still high by international standards and the pain in the domestic economy is considerable.

The scope for further reductions is being undermined by the steady weakening of the krona, which has now fallen by 20 per cent against the dollar since the devaluation. The government is determined to maintain its anti-inflation credentials, not least as part of its strategy of participating in European monetary union.

But worries over the size of the government's borrowing requirement saw market interest rates edge higher last week.



Anne Wibble: may have trouble winning other parties' support

The main worry remains the budget deficit, which is now nearly three times the SKr70m level predicted a year ago, having been exacerbated by falling tax revenues, rising unemploy-ment and the cost of bailing out the crisis-stricken banking

Funding the interest on its debt is now the government's single largest outlay.
The government will be hop-

ing its calculations are more accurate this year. However, its sums could easily be thrown out by developments within the domestic economy - with unemployment set to rise further from its current 7.2 per cent level and the banking crisis yet to show signs of bottoming out - as well as

In any case, it will be desperately hoping for some signs of economic recovery during 1993, an election year, and the last thing it will want to do next January is to present another austerity package unrelieved by any handouts.

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#### **GREEK EXPORTS S.A. ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### OF A PUBLIC AUCTION FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER

GREEK EXPORTS S.A., registered in Athens (17 Panepistimiou St.) and legally represented, in its capacity as liquidator, in accordance with article 46a of Law 1829/1990, as supplemented by article 14 of Law 2000/1991 and following the decision of the Thessaloniki Court of Appeal No. 3210/1992

a public auction for the highest bidder, with scaled, binding offers for the purchase in toto of the assets of the company moder special biquidation named AGROINDUSTRIAL S.A. (GR.VLS.A.) established in Methoni, Pieria and henceforth referred to as 'the Company'. **ACTIVITIES AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY** 

The Company is engaged in the processing, canning and deep freezing of fruit and vegetables as well as in the sale of these products.

It owns the following immor

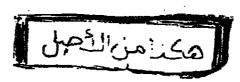
- An industrial complex situated on the 50th kilometre of the Thessaloniki-Katerini national road and the fronting the old Thessaloniki-Katerini national road. The factory buildings cover a total area of 27,039m² and include industrial plant for processing, refrigerating and deep freezing, standing on a self-owned plot of land 98 444m² in area situated in the estate region of the Community of Methoni, Pieria.
- An industrial unit for fruit sorting at Argoliko, Nafplian on a 4,500m² plot of land with a building area of 2,112m² where a fruit sorting line with a capacity
- Two (2) floors (a and b) of 179.47m each containing offices and a basement of 131.69m in the corner building of the Municipality of Thessalouiki at 22

TERMS OF THE AUCTION Parties interested in participating in the auction are invited to receive from the liquidator the Offering Memorandum and the draft letter of guarantee in order to submit a scaled, binding offer to the notary public appointed to the auction, Mrs. Stavrouls Esglatzi-Kandila at 34 Pafeilypou Street, Thessaloniki, Tel. (0353) 31554, by Tuesday, 2nd February 1993 at 19:00 hours.

Offers must be submitted in person or by a legally authorised representative

The hids will be unsealed before the above notary or "3rd February 1993 (Wednesday) at 10:00 hours. The unsealing will be attended by the liquidator and all those who have submitted offers before the time limit are entitled to attend.

- Offers submitted beyond the prescribed time limit will not be accepted or taken into account.
- The sealed, binding offers must specifically mention the price offered for the purchase, in toto, of the assets of the Company and be accompanied by a letter of guarantee from a bank legally operating in Greece to the amount of a bundred million drachmas (Drs. 100,000,000) or its equivalent in the US dollars. The Company's assets and all fixed and circulating constituent parts thereof, such as immovable and movable property, claims, trademarks, titles, rights, etc. will be sold and transferred "as is, where is" and, more specifically, in their actual and legal condition and location on the date of signature of the sale contract, regardless of whether the Company is in operation or not.
- The liquidator, the Company and the creditors representing 51% of the total claims against the Company (Law 1892/90, article 46e, para. 1, as in force) known bereafter as the "Majority Creditors", shall beer no liability for any legal or actual defects or for any deficiency in the effects and rights for sale, nor for any incomplete or inaccurate description of them in the Offering Memorandum and in any correspondence.
- Prospective buyers, hereinafter referred to as "Buyers", shall be obliged, on their own responsibility and due care, and by their own means and at their own expense, to inspect the object of the sale and form their own judgement and declare in their hids that they are fully aware of the actual and legal condition of the assets for sale. The Buyers are hereby reminded that, in accordance with the provisions of Law 1892/90, article 46s, para. 4, as in force, having agreed in writing to maintain confidentiality, they are entitled to have access to any information they may require concerning the Company for sale.
- Bids should not contain terms which might prevaricate their bindingness or any vegueness concerning the offered price and its method of payment, or any other matter of importance to the sale, the Liquidator and the majority Creditors have the right, at their incontestable discretion, to reject offers which contain terms and conditions, irrespective of whether these offers contain a higher price than that of other bidders, Such unacceptable terms would be, for example, requests for the repair, improvement or transfer of fixed assets, or requests for guarantees in the collection of claims or the outcome of court actions brought by the Company in this respect, or compliance with recommendations regarding the security of the installations, or for safeguarding the
- In the event that the person to whom the auction is adjudicated fails in his obligation to appear, as requested, within twenty (20) days from being invited to do so, and sign the relative contract, or fails to shide by any other obligations accruing from the present amnouncement, then the above-mentioned guarantee of one hundred million drachmas (Drs. 100,000,000) is forfeited to the liquidator in compensation for expenses of all kinds, time spent and any actual or hypothetical losses sustained, with no obligation on the liquidator's part to give any accounting or specific proof or deem that the amount has been forfeited to him as a penalty clause, and collect it from the guaranter bank.
- 9. The highest bidder is deemed the one whose offer has been so judged by the Liquidator and approved by the Majority Creditors as being in their best
- 10. The Liquidator shall not be fiable to participants in the auction either with respect to the evaluation report or for his selection of the highest bidder and neither will be be liable to them for the cancellation of the auction in the event that its outcome is not approved by the Majority Creditors.
- 11. Participants in the auction do not acquire any right, claim or damand from the present announcement or from their participation in the auction, against the
- 12. Transfer expense of the assets for sale (taxes, stamp duty, notorial and mortgagor's fees, rights and other expenses for drawing up topographical diagrams as required by Law 651/77, etc.) are to be horne by the Buyer.
- For further information, interested parties should apply to: ы
- a) The Head Office of ETBA S.A. Directorate of Public Holdings 87 Syngrou Ave., Athens (2nd Floor) Tel. +30-1-929,4395 and 929,4396
- CREEK EXPORTS S.A. 17 Panepistimiou St. Athens (1st Floor) Tel. +30-1-324.3111 - 324.3115
- GREEK EXPORTS S.A. Theasaloniki Branch 45 Nikis St. Theasalon aloniki (Ground Floor) Tel. +30-31-278.623 and 239.371



# greater Ukrainian ilitar 'progress' on N-arms

By Chrystia Freeland in Kiev

UKRAINE has made progress in efforts to obtain security assurances from the west in exchange for becoming non-nu-clear, authorities in Kiev said

Mr Borys Tarasiuk, deputy minister of foreign affairs, said a draft agreement in which leading nuclear powers, including Russia, would pledge not to attack Ukraine had been pre-pared and was being discussed with the western nuclear states. "There are no doubts in anyone's mind that this ques-tion will be resolved," he said on his return from Washington, where he met President George Bush.

Ukraine, which has 176 intercontinental ballistic missiles on its territory, is the key to the Start 2 disarmament agreement between Russia and the US. Until Ukraine ratifies the earlier Start 1 treaty to remove all nuclear weapons from the country, Start 2 cannot go ahead. The Ukrainian parliament is hesitating over Start 1 in an attempt to win security guarantees and financial assis-

tance from the west. Ukraine's attempt to win security assurances is aimed at establishing a shield against Russia, which would remain a nuclear power even if Start 2

But to avoid singling out its powerful northern neighbour and to tie the west into the security arrangement, Mr Tarasiuk said, Ukraine was seeking simultaneous security assurances from the US,

British diplomats in Kiev confirmed that the UK was

involved in negotiations.
It is the Ukrainian parlia ment, not the government which must ratify the START 1 pact, and attitudes there are toughening to the extent that even the security arrangement described by Mr Tarasiuk may

not be enough. Mr Olexander Tarasenko, a senior member of parliament's defence commission, said he had little confidence in Mr Tarasiuk's assurances.

"Mr Tarasiuk appears rather optimistic after his trip. More attention should be paid to the interests of Ukraine rather than to what one person or another is saying," he told

"We have discussed this question informally in the commission and came to the conclusion that no one will in fact provide us with security guarantees." Mr Tarasenko is one of about 70 members representing farming interests and embodies some of the more conservative viewpoints in Ukraine's parliament.

He said parliament had put ratification of Start 1 and the Non-Proliferation Treaty at the top of its legislative agenda and would debate both documents soon after deputies resumed work in mid-January. Other deputies have said a heavy parliamentary agenda

dominated by economic reform a year after independence from Moscow would push the ratification debate back until Febru-

#### **Minister** urges arms for **Bosnians**

By Alice Rawsthom in Paris

MR Bernard Kouchner, France's minister of health and humanitarian affairs, has urged the United Nations to amend its arms embargo against the former Yugoslav states to allow Bosnians to arm themselves against Serbian aggression.

allow the Bosnian Mosiems to be defenceless?" Mr Kouchner said in an article in Le Journal de Dimanche newspaper Mr Kouchner's flamboyant

campaigns to focus world attention on the crises in Bosnia and Somalia have struck a chord with the public but not among fellow politicians. His appeal for help for the Bosnians, and the intervention by Mr Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, yes-

terday comes as their plight is put under the spotlight in France during the run-up to March parliamentary elec-Preident François Mitter-rand on Saturday met in Paris with Mr Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, who urged the French to press their allies to intervene in the Bosnians' defence. The French president is believed to have promised

of intervention with other Senior politicians from both sides of the French political divide have already called on the UN to step up its efforts to

that he would raise the issue

Mr Eduard Balladur, a favourite to become prime minister if the conservatives win the March elections, yes-terday arged the UN to act.

#### Turkey takes Moslems under its wing Ankara is arguing for force against Serbs, writes John Murray Brown

HANKS to Turkey's lob-bying and the loan of the Turkish president's private jet, Mr Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnia's Moslem leader, should get a hearing at today's special meeting of Islamic Conference countries in Senegal.

Turkey, a Moslem country tution, is today in the curious position of outdoing even the most radical Islamic states in defence of Bosnia's Moslems. For more than six months

Turkey has been a lone voice within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation calling for military intervention to prevent the carve-up of the former Yugoslav republic. Turkey was quick to offer

troops but the UN has indi-cated its opposition to involv-ing such regional countries in peacekeeping. no-lose situation," says a west-ern diplomat. "It can offer a

battalion, a division, the whole Turkish army in the safe knowledge that the UN would The move has none the less done much to allay criticism of the government amid growing

public outrage at the failure of

the international community

to curb Serbian aggression. Primary school pupils are raising money for refugees from the conflict. After the latest reports of Moslem rape victims, the government despatched a team of abortionists. Turkish opposition politicians have sought electoral mileage from high-profile visits to the

Having turned its back on its imperial past some 70 years ago, republican Turkey today finds itself, however reluctantly, as the moral protector of those communities whom the Ottomans converted to Islam. As Mumtaz Soysal, a leading Turkish commentator, sees it: "It's not unlike the way

Istanbul and other cities, who tee the rights of the Christian first settled in Turkey as the empire collapsed. Many are prominent in Turkish business minorities under the Ottoman

The reason for Turkish con-

cern is partly historical. While

officials are quick to disclaim

irredentist ambitions towards

their country's former Otto-

man dependencies in the Bal-

kans, Bosnia is often casually

described as part of the Turk-

There are after all an esti-mated 2m Slav "Bosnaks" in

ish nation.

in Bosnia, the crisis could reawaken other ethnic conflicts dragging in all the regional powers, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Bulgaria, and perhaps even the Russians. At a hastily convened Balkan foreign ministers meet-ing in Istanbul in November, western powers, particularly the French, sought to guaran-Turkey voiced concern over Kosovo, the previously autono-

As Turkey sees it, if Serbian

into a conflict if Albania sought to defend Kosovo's 2.5m ethnic Albanians. The Turks argue that inac-

tion on the part of the west will also belp fuel a more radical Moslem reaction, which in the long run will damage the case for Turkey's own position in the heart of Europe.

In the public mind, the Bosnian crisis has already been reduced to a simple conflict of Christian against Moslem which has not made it any easier for the government to

steer a moderate course. The OIC set January 15 as an informal deadline for the international community to take action. Turkish officials say the threat of unilateral military intervention by the OIC is only "an insinuation" and that to be under UN auspices.

In practice, given the naval blockade, it is hard to see what the OIC can do. Mr Hikmet Cetin, foreign minister, last week suggested the Islamic countries could impose an oil embargo on western countries

This may have been the foreign minister indulging in domestic politics. His Social Democrat party, the junior partner in the coalition, is currently challenged by Republican People's party leader Deniz Baykal, whose trip to Sarajevo grabbed the Turkish headlines last week.

However, the suggestion is further evidence of Turkey's growing frustration over the

# France and Germany seal deals just in time



financial serment: just in time to catch the opening of Europe's single market. On December 30. shareholders in

Aachener und Münchener Beteiligungs (AMB), Germany's second biggest insurance group, finally approved the DM1.9bn (£780m) sale of a David Waller majority stake in BfG Bank, Germany's sixth biggest bank,

to France's Crédit Lyonnais. to allow Assurances Générales de France (AGF), the large two linked French state-owned insurance financial company, to have full voting rights over its 25 per cent stake in AMB.

The timing of the vote reached only after last-minute uncertainties threatened to unhinge the transactions was highly appropriate.
These interlinked cross-bor-

der deals are flavoured with a dash of opportunism. But they are driven fundamentally by the opportunities provided by the single market. AGF will be able to partici-

pate in the reshaping of the German insurance market. And Crédit Lyonnais Will become the only foreign institution to own a large commercial bank in Germany, fulfilling a long-standing ambien to break into Europe's largest market for financial services. Significantly, international

jostling to take advantage of forthcoming German liberalisation has been almost exclusively a Franco-German affair. Despite the UK's pretensions to preeminence in financial services, British banks and insurance companies have been on

January 11, 1993

Germany's insurance market, Europe's biggest, with vices - deals annual premiums worth have come to DM180bn is set for considerable changes from 1994 nity directives take effect.

The directives will free commission structures in many hitherto protected sectors. Domestic institutions have already started taking positions in anticipation of these

changes.
Deutsche Bank, the coun-

and Alice At the same time, they voted Rawsthorn on services deals

> try's biggest bank, has bought large stakes in two insurance companies. Allianz, the market leader, is in the process of restructuring its domestic

> Liberalisation should in theory provide opportunities for other European insurance companies. Building operations from nothing is difficult, however, mainly because establishing a distribution network is prohibitively expensive.

The most reasonable approach is thus to buy - or wield influence over - an existing insurance company. Opportunities here are limited and AGF's deal with AMB expected by analysts to lead eventually to full control will give it the biggest stake in the German insurance market of any foreign company. If the deal between the insur-

regarded AGF's stake-building as hostile. The German company's strategy for Europe centred on a loose cross-marketing agreement with Fondiaria of Italy and Royal Insurance of the UK, from which AGF was excluded.

The basis for the two insurance companies' reconciliation was that AGF would help find a buyer for BfG. This it did, by bringing in state-owned Crédit Lvonnais. The transaction thus closed

an important chapter in AMB's

troubled venture into banking, which started with the purchase of a majority stake in BiG Bank over five years ago. The BiG purchase gives Crédit Lyonnais around 200 branches in the east and west of Germany. Crédit Lyonnais shares the BfG management's view that BfG is leaner and fitter than many of its domestic competitors after drastic

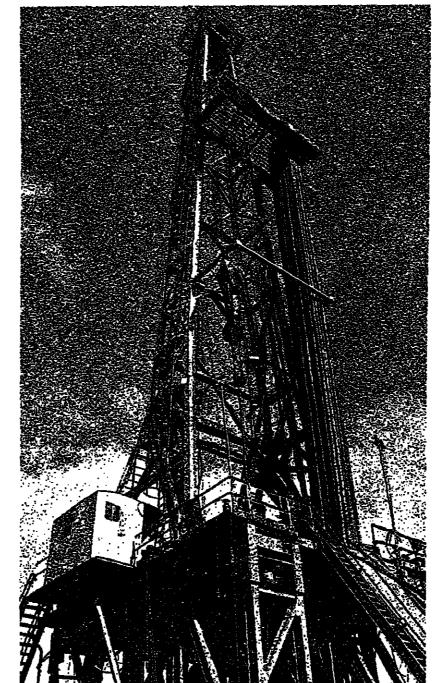
rationalisation. AGF's tactics in its battle for AMB are being adopted by Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP), another state-controlled company which is AGF's arch-rival in France. UAP is fighting for control of Colonia, one of the largest German insurers, and also recently took a 37.4 per cent stake in Nordstern, another large Ger-man insurance company.

In this tussling for market share on the continent, British insurance companies are playing a much more low-pro-file role.

However one senior French insurance executive believes the basic reason may be cultural. "It is difficult to imagine any co-operation with a British company," he says dismissively. It is a question of men-tality. The British are convinced they are better than the continental Europeans, and ance companies ended harmosimply cannot work with niously, the path to completion was paved with confrontation.



#### **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** NOTICE INVITING OFFERS FOR EXPLORATION FOR OIL & NATURAL GAS FIFTH ROUND OF BIDDING (1993)



The Government of India invites companies to bid for acreage for exploration for oil and natural gas. 45 blocks — 29 offshore, 15 onshore and 1 onshore block extending into offshore - are available for exploration by companies, which can bid for one or more blocks, singly or in association with other companies.

mous region on the Albanian

border which Serbia in effect

Turkey has close ties with

re-annexed three years ago.

Contracts to be signed with successful bidding companies would be modelled on the pattern of the production-sharing contracts to be signed under the Fourth Round and would include the following attractive features:

- Provision for seismic option

- No signature or production bonus

- No royalty payment

 No customs duty - No ring fencing of blocks for corporate tax purposes

- Progressive fiscal regime

- Suitable provisions for production and pricing of gas

- Purchase of company's share of oil at international market price Provision for assignment

BID ITEMS

- Profit oil and profit gas shares expected by companies at various levels of post-tax rate of return or multiples of investment recovered - Percentage of annual production expected to be allocated towards

- Total length of exploration period, number of phases in exploration period and minimum work commitment in each of the phases

AVAILABILITY OF DATA

Facsimile: 3316413

An information docket on each basin has been prepared. It will contain information on regional and local geology and the current status of exploratory activities in the blocks in each basin. Deta packages containing seismic sections, gravity and magnetic anomaly maps, wireline logs, structure contour maps etc. are available for most of the blocks. Companies may purchase either the information dockets or the data

packages or both. There is no limit on the number of basins or blocks for which data may be purchased.

Companies interested in purchase of information dockets and data packages and in obtaining further information may contact:

Head, EXCOM Group, Qil and Natural Gas Commission, 7th Floor, Bank of Baroda Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001, INDIA. Telephone: 3715291, 3317205 Telex: 031-65184, 031-66262

Bids should be submitted in sealed envelopes superscribed "Confidential" "Fifth Round of Bidding (1993)" not later than 3.00 P.M. on 30th June, 1993 to:

Mr. Naresh Dayel, Joint Secretary (Exploration), Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, 2nd Floor, Shastri Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Marg, New Delhi-110001, INDIA.

To the Holders of

Banco Central del Uruguay New Money Notes Due 2006 Debt Conversion Notes Due 2007

Notice of Interest Rates

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the interest rates covering the interest period from January 2, 1993 to July 2, 1993 are detailed below:

January 24 - 222 - 2			Payment
Series Designation	Rate	Interest Amount	Date
USD Debt Conversion	4.50 Pct. P.A.	USD \$ 22.63 Per USD \$ 1,000	July 2, 1993
Notes STG Debt Conversion Notes USD New Money Notes	8.00 Pct. P.A. 4.625 Pct. P.A.	STG 21.11 Per STG 500 USD 23.25 Per USD 1.000	July 2, 1993 July 2, 1993
NOD WEN WINES ! ANTER		CITIBANK	N.A., Agent

# Foley warns Clinton to rethink plan to cut income tax

MR TOM FOLEY, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, yesterday advised President-elect Bill Clinton to rethink his campaign promise to

class because of the growing federal budget deficit. In a TV interview, Mr Foley said it was "probably true" that some popular social pro-grammes would have to be cur-

the light of the deficit problem. He urged Mr Clinton not to duck such tough choices, saying "people are mature enough to be told the truth." He thought Mr Clinton

should have his legislative programme ready "reasonably soon", but not necessarily immediately after the inaugupolicy changes. Forecasting shortfalls of over \$300bn ration next week. There was (£193bn), they seemed immedinot, he added. "a use-it-or-

WASHINGTON knows no fury like a

tionial interpretation of last Friday's

decision by Mr Tom Foley, the speaker, to remove Congressman Dave McCurdy, the rising star from Okla-

homa, from the chairmanship of the

House intelligence committee.
Yesterday, for the record, Mr Foley flatly denied he wanted to take Mr

Intelligence committee members

were only supposed to serve for six

years, whereas Mr McCurdy had done

nine, the last two as chairman, he said.

speaker scorned. This is the conven-

By Jurek Martin

McCurdy down a peg.

the new president, since both Republicans and Democrats were willing to support the right sort of policy proposals. Last week, the outgoing Bush administration produced its final econonic projections pointing to wider, not narrower, deficits, assuming no

deficit in half in his first term. Mr Richard Darman, Mr Bush's budget director, also publicly questioned the wis-dom of some of Mr Clinton's ideas, claiming that "they do not add up." This prompted a tart reply from the presidentelect to the effect that Mr Darman's maths had not proved so reliable either, as the final defi-

McCurdy the victim in Congress feud

The Clinton economic team met in Little Rock last week to review policy options but announced no conclusions beyond acknowledgment of the severity of the deficit problem. This, in itself, may imply that the tax cut is to be deferred. There is some concern in Washington about the slowness in the formation of the new government.

Although all the cabinet

against Mr Les Aspin, the chairman of

the House armed services committee

eventually chosen for the Pentagon job.

Mr Aspin and Mr Foley are close. Adding insult to injury, Mr McCurdy took to warning that if Mr Aspin did

move into the cabinet, the next person

would be Mr Ron Dellums of Calif-

ornia, the dovish black congressman

Dellums is also very much a senior member of the House leadership club

Mr McCurdy has also been a promi-

neut member of the Democratic Leader-

under Mr Foley's direction.

Whatever his policy inclinations, Mr

in line for the committee chairmanship

appointments were in place before Christmas, none of the critical policy-making positions at the next tier have been for mally announced, though rumours of recruitment abound, including that of Mr Larry Summers, the Harvard economist, to be treasury undersecretary for international affairs.

centrist grouping in which Mr Clinton

was long active.
The DLC and its think-tank, the Pro-

gressive Policy Institute, provided

many ideas for a successful presiden-tial campaign, from which the congres-

sional leadership sometimes felt a little

Mr McCurdy himself issued a state-

ment on Friday seeming to acknowledge that the speaker had put his foot down. He cited Mr Foley's "desire to

place his own team" on the intelligence

He remains, however, a member of

the armed services committee, with plenty of opportunity to get his views

See Monday Column, Back

#### Mozer to guilty By Patrick Harverson

in New York

MR PAUL MOZER, former head of government bond trad-ing at Wall Street securities house Salomon Brothers, is to plead guilty to criminal charges that he lied to Treasury officials about customer bids he submitted at a 1991 Treasury securities auction.

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After concluding a plea agreement with federal prosecutors. Mr Mozer will appear before a Manhattan court this morning to plead guilty to two felony counts that he falsified bids, in the names of Salomon customers Warburg Asset Management and the Quantum Fund, at a February 1991 auc-

tion of five year treasury notes The bids were submitted without the knowledge of either customer, and enabled Mr Mozer to obtain a greater share of the newly-issued securities for Salomon than government rules allowed.

Mr Mozer has paid \$500,000 (£322,000) into a government escrow account to meet any judgments against him by the Securities and Exchange Com-

mission or by private civil claims that relate to his bidding activities. Although the two felony charges carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine, a special hearing will be held to determine

how much money, if any, investors and other trading companies lost as a result of Mr Mozer's actions. The severity of the sentence

will be determined by the hearing's findings.

Mr Mozer's lawyer, Mr Stanley Arkin, maintains that no money was lost because of his actions, and that neither Mr. Mozer nor Salomon profited from the false bids. Mr Arkin also points out that Mr Mozer has pleaded guilty to "administrative violations" that he has long conceded were wrong, and argues that the violations were not severe enough to warrant criminal proceedings.

Foley: says social programmes would have to be curtailed

Peruvian economy

By Sally Bowen in Lima

Mr Carlos Boloña.

MR Jorge Camet Dickman,

Peru's industry minister for

the past eight months, has

been appointed economy and

finance minister following last

week's surprise departure of

Mr Camet, 65, has a track

record as a successful engineer

and entrepreneur, and has

twice presided over Peru's pri-

vate businessmen's associa-

tion. However, he has no back-

ground in economics and only

limited knowledge and experi-

ence of the complex workings

of the international financial

#### openly for the position of secretary of defence or possibly director of the CIA in the Clinton cabinet. This put him up ship Council, the southern-dominated "I thought others should have the Chile to brief Hurd on Moyle death

opportunity to serve," he added, while praising Mr McCurdy's "credible and

innovative" chairmanship of the panel.

In reality, Mr McCurdy, 42 and fairly close to President-elect Bill Clinton,

has been a thorn in Mr Foley's flesh for

At the height of the House bank

scandal last year, he questioned the speaker's leadership and even spoke of

launching a challenge for his job. Mr Foley was returned unopposed to his

More recently, Mr McCurdy had

seemed to be campaigning a little too

position last month.

minister appointed By Leslie Crawford In Santiago and John Barham in Buenos Aires be obliged to negotiate in the coming months. BRITISH Foreign Secretary

Mr Camet has so far made no Douglas Hurd, who arrived statement of substance on modifications to economic polyesterday from Argentina on a two-day visit to Chile, is to discuss with Chilean officials the icy. He claims the general direction towards stabilisation unsolved murder of Mr Jonaand structural reform will conthan Moyle, a British defence tinue and key members of the journalist killed in Santiago Bolona team are expected to three years ago. Mr Hurd was expected to be stay on at the Economy Minis-

briefed by the Chilean Foreign Recently both President Ministry on the slow progress Alberto Fujimori and Prime of the murder inquiry. So far, Minister Oscar de la Puente the inquiry has failed to shed any light on the assassination. have reiterated the necessity of promoting industrial reactivawhich was made to look like tion and raising social spendsuicide. ing to create jobs and help the Mr Moyle, the 28-year-old editor of Defence Helicopter

World, was murdered in the Carrera Hotel in Santiago in March 1990 while covering an

> British interest in Mr Moyle's fate was revived following the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial, where it was shown that UK government ministers sanctioned the sale of military technology to Iraq via a Chilean middle-man, Mr Carlos Cardoen. Attempts to link Mr Cardoen

> to Moyle's assassination collapsed last week during an identification parade in which a Carrera Hotel chambermaid failed to recognise a Cardoen employee she thought she had seen talking to Mr Moyle on the eve of his death. Mr Cardoen has always denied any

Mr Hurd's two-day visit to Chile is also expected to be

from California.

taken up with trade and investment talks, and the impact of the European Community single market on Chilean exports. The UK is Chile's biggest export market in Europe, with sales of some £200m last year, against imports of some £110m. British multinationals also have a strong presence in the

Chilean mining, cement, tobacco and food industries, with £2bn of investments, but British diplomats in Santiago believe UK exporters are not taking full advantage of Chile's booming economy, which grew 9.7 per cent last year. Mr Hurd's five-day visit to Argentina was described by

though they made no progress over the Falklands, the only issue that divides them.

Mr Hurd said his trip proved "that it is possible to come to Argentina and not be bombarded all the time by the sovereignty dispute". British officials were pleasantly surprised that demonstrators did not meet them on their arrival in Buenos Aires on Wednesday. One of Argentina's top Falk-

land negotiators said Mr Hurd's visit, the first by a cabinet minister since the 1982 Falklands conflict, meant "we are on our way to a broader, richer relationship in which the islands are only a part of the relationship, not the only

#### Sihanouk climbs down

PRINCE Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia is to co-operate with the UN peackeeping mission in Phnom Penh, less than a week after announcing he was unable to work with the organisation as it had not stopped political violence, writes Victor Mallet in Bangkok. In a weekend statement.

Prince Sihanouk also said he had called a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council - which includes the four main political factions - at his residence in Beiiing on January 28. His climbdown followed two

hours of talks in Beijing on Friday with Mr Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia.

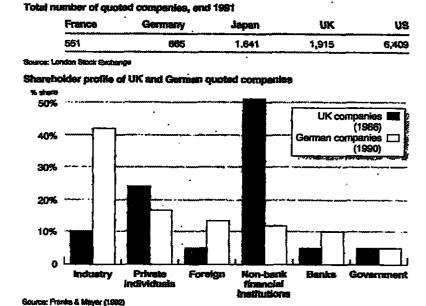
#### institutions with which he will INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS: PRODUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT

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6	105.7	101.0	6.9	98.0	106.1	106.5	99.7	2.8	94.3	105.5	103.4	102.2	6.4	136.4	104.8	102.4	101.1	10.4	107.2	108.9	108.0	104,1	10.5	110.9	105.2	102.4	11.2	116.1	105.2	1
7	108.3	105.9	6.1	105.5	109.9	113.8	103.1	2.9	108.3	115.5	107.4	102.5	6.2	149.4	105.9	104.5	103.1	10.5	117.6	108.3	113.9	106.8	10.9	113.0	110.7	105.7	10.3	141.2	109.3	•
8	112.3	111.6	5.4	106.1	114.3	122.8	112.9	25	135.9	122.9	110.5	106.2	6.2	164,7	112.0	107.9	107.3	10.0	134.9	114.2	109.8	114.2	10.9	117.8	117.7	109.5	8.6	144.3	107.5	
9	115.1	114.5	5.2	99.3	113.1	132.8	119.9	2.2	147.0	126.5	114.1	111.4	5.6	218.6	114.8	109.8	111.3	9.4	161.1	113.7	118.4	118.7	10.9	116.0	119.8	109.9	7.1	124.7	105.3	•
10	115.4	115.7	5.4	84.5	109.1	142.0	125.3	2.1	149.7	124.6	123.5	117.2	4.9	261.0	115.5	110.1	112.9	9.0	166.0	105.4	115.0	118.0	10.3	112.3	120.4	109.3	6.8	98.1	103.1	-
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Yearly data for retail sales volume and industrial production plus all data for the vacancy rate indicator are in index form with 1985 = 100. Quarterly and monthly data for retail sales and industrial production show the percentage change over the corresponding period in the previous year, and are positive unless otherwise stated. The

ics for Germany apply only to wastern Germany. Data supplied by Datastream and WEFA. Retail sales evolume: data from national government sources except Japan and Italy (value series defiated by OECD using CPI). Refers to total retail sales except France and Italy (major outlets only) and Japan reduction data from national government sources, includes mining, manufacturing, gas, electricity and water supply industries except Japan (mining and manufacturing only) and UK (also includes construction industries). Unemployment rate: OECD standardised rate which adjusts as far as possible from OECD series. US — help-wanted advertising, Japan — new vecancies, Germany and France — all jobs vecant, Italy — no data available, UK inglinities of series, cyclical fluctuations in which usually precede cyclical fluctuations in general economic activity.

#### Whose hands are on the corporate tiller?



#### Speculative effects of Anglo-American capitalism

AN EMERGING US recovery, alongside deepening difficulties in Germany and Japan, does not make this a particularly good time to trumpet the merits of German or Japanese style co-operative capitalism over the more deal-hungry Anglo-Saxon variant. But the relatively dismal performances of the US and UK economies over the last decade should prevent policymakers in these countries from feeling smug simply because business cycles are currently out of line.

The commonly cited criticism of Anglo-Saxon economic practices is financial short-termism. US and UK companies. the conventional wisdom goes, are hampered by banks who have no stake in their long-term success and will not lend other than for short-term projects. But differences in financial practices tend to reflect deeper variations in the structure of corporate ownership and control across countries, according to Mr Colin Mayer, now at Warwick University, and Mr Julian Franks of the London Business School.

Franks and Mayer describe two models

of corporate governance. In the outsider system the takeover threat is the main discipline on incumbent managers. The insider system relies, instead, on internal, committee-style supervision of management decisions. The outsider system is characterised by a large number of listed companies, whose shares are frequently traded in a liquid stock market and in which there are few intercorporate equity holdings. The insider system, by contrast, has fewer companies which are vulnerable to takeovers, and a web of cross-shareholdings, so that incumbent managers tend to

have considerable discretion. Japan, Germany and France fit the sider model. Relative to the US and UK, they all have a strikingly small number of companies whose equity is publicly quoted and traded on the stock exchange and thus vulnerable to takeover. The UK had a little under three times as many quoted companies as Germany in 1991 and twice as many takeovers in the 1980s.

Within the listed companies, there is much greater concentration of ownership

in the insider economies. Of Germany's listed companies, 85 per cent had a single shareholder who controlled more than 25 per cent of the stock in 1990 compared with only 16 per cent of the top 200 listed UK companies. Of these same UK companies, 77 per cent had a largest shareholder with no more than 10 per cent of the total equity.

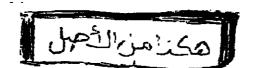
Company shareholder profiles in the insider economies are also markedly different from the Anglo-Saxon economies, as the chart illustrates. German companies held 42 per cent of the total equity of quoted Germany companies in 1990, while banks accounted for a relatively modest 6 per cent. In the UK, companies held only 10 per cent of total equity while the majority of shares were held by non-bank financial institutions and private individuals.

The Anglo-American outsider system, Franks and Mayer argue rather charitably is best suited to corporate activities which involve subjective assessments of future prospects and in which takeovers are motivated by disagreements over corporate strategy. True, studies tend to find little or no relationship between past company performance and hostile takeovers. But nearly 80 per cent of executive directors either resign or are dismissed within two years of a successful hostile bid.

The continental insider system, by contrast, may be better suited to activities in which there is a direct need to control quality of product, management and employees. Performance tends to be monitored by a committee or supervisory board including workers, bankers and experts from related companies who have a direct stake in the company's future. So while Anglo-American companies dominate speculative fields such as oil exploration, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, in manufacturing it is Japanese and Germany companies that still lead the world

**Edward Bails** Corporate Control: a Synthesis of the International Evidence, November 1992. London Business School, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SA.

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# • Unrest forces Rao to miss Asian summit

By Shiraz Sidhya in New Deibi

MR P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, cancelled a visit to Bangladesh as Bombay and parts of Gujarat state in western India continued to burn for the sixth consecutive day yesterday.

Mr Rao was due to attend a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation scheduled for Thursday and Friday. The summit was postponed indefi-nitely after India made clear at the weekend that the "atmosphere was not conducive" to holding the conference.

Bombay has been tense since last month's nationwide riots, triggered by the razing of a mosque in Ayodhya, northern India, by supporters of the radical Hindu Bharatiya Janata party. More than 1,200 people died in the ensuing violence.

Political sources said the new flare-ups appeared to have been fanned by Hindu political groups trying to push Mr Rao into an early general election.

The latest phase of violence between Hindus and Moslems has claimed at least 168 lives. Bombay, India's business capital, came to a standstill as 80 more people died yesterday. Arson and looting continued unabated in several parts of the city, despite the deployment of the army.

Police patrols, which had been accused of siding with the Hindu community during the violence that swept the city in December, were shot at and had acid, petrol bombs and stones thrown at them. In Ahmadabad and Baroda in

Gujarat, more than 30 people were killed and 150 left homeless at the weekend before the authorities restored order. Six leaders of the BJP. including Mr Lal Krishan Advani and Mr Murli Manohar

Joshi, are expected to be released unconditionally today. under orders from the Uttar Pradesh chief judicial magistrate. The men were arrested for inciting communal violence by encouraging the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Israel agrees to let nine deportees back

A SECOND United Nations envoy yesterday met Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, in an attempt to resolve the fate of 413 Palestinian deportees stranded between Israel and Lebanon, writes Judy Maltz in Jerusalem.

Israel, showing the first signs of bowing to world pressure to let the expelled men return, agreed over the weekend to allow nine Palestinians deported by mistake to return to Israel on UN

helicopters, accompanied by officials of the Red Cross. But the move was blocked by Lebanese prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, who said he would allow the deportees to leave only through Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

#### S African right to join talks

South Africa's political parties took a step at the weekend toward resuming multi-party negotiations on a post-apartheid constitution when right-wing groups agreed to participate in planning a new multi-party forum, Patti Waldmeir reports. The white supremacist Conservative party, the mainly Zulu Inkatha Free-dom party and two black homeland governments pledged to start planning a new forum, which could meet as early as March.

#### Chinese 'smugglers' caught

Singapore authorities have detained a ship believed to be part of China into the US, writes Kieran Cooke. Police say more than 100 China nationals were found on board.

#### Marines kill Somali gunmen

US Marines yesterday killed three Somali gunmen and wounded a fourth in a gunfight in Mogadishu, Reuter reports from Moga-dishu. US-led forces have killed at least 11 Somalis since a relief effort began on December 9.

#### Kurd aid worker shot dead

The killing of an aid worker in Turkey has dealt another blow to relief efforts to ferry supplies to Iraqi Kurds, writes John Murray Brown in Ankara. Mr Douglas Cameron, of Care Australia, was shot by unidentified gunmen as his vehicle was taking supplies to villages near Suleymania.

#### **FT CONFERENCES**

EUROPE - THE WAY FORWARD Paris, 10 & 11 February

This timely conference provides an opportunity for economic and business leaders to address a whole series of questions on Europe's future. Speakers include Mr Pierre Bérégovoy, Prime Minister of Frence, Dr Hans Tleimeyer, Deputy Governor of the Deutsche Bundesbenk, Mr Edmond Alphandery, Economist & Member of the French Parliament, Dr Tommaso Parlos-Schlernes Deputy Pierres General of Rence Manie Dr Tul Marier Parica-Schloppa, Deputy Director General of Banca d'Italia, Dr Tyll Necker eration of German Industries and Mr François Perigo President of CNPF.

THE LONDON MOTOR CONFERENCE London, 22 February

The aim of this year's meeting is to discuss the challenges an opportunities tacing the European motor manufacturing and components inclusing and review developments in distribution and franchising. Speakers include: Mr Bill Ebbert, Chakman and Managing Director, Vauchail Motors Limited; Mr John Towers, Group Managing Director of Rover Group Limited; Mr John Towers, Group Managing Director of Rover Group Limited; Mr Trevor Bonner, Managing Director of Automotive Drive Line Systems Division at GKN pic and Professor Garet Rhys, OBE, Professor of Motor Industry Economics at Cardiff Business School.

CABLE & SATELLITE BROADCASTING

London, 23 & 24 February The Financial Times annual conference will review the state of progress of the new international television channels, their effect on the conventional television companies and the associated business, investment and television companies and the associated business. regulatory issues. Speakers include: Sir George Russell of the Independent Television Commission; Sir Bryan Carsberg of the Office of Fair Trading; Mr. John Birt of the BBC; Dr Burkhard Nowotny of Deutsche Welle; Mr. Adam. linger of International Telecommunications inc; Mr Edward Bieler of Warner Bros Inc and Mr Gary Davey of British SKy Broadcasting.

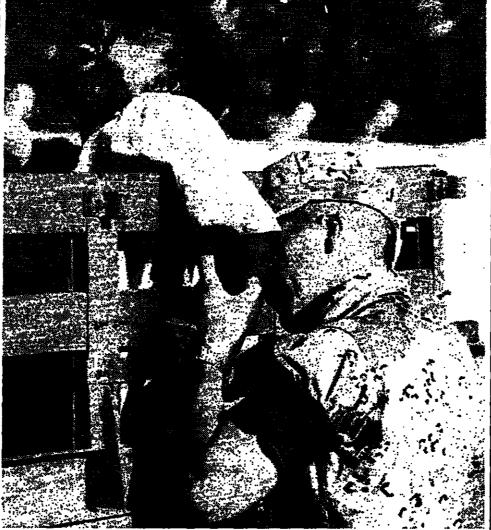
TRANSPORT IN EUROPE -CREATING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

London, 2 & 3 March The conference will examine a broad range of policy issues for liberals and harmonising transport in Europe, tinancing infrastructure improve and the development of pan-European integrated transport systems. Speakers include: The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE, MP, LK Secretary of State for Transport; Professor Dr Günther Krause, German Federal Minister of Transport; Mr José Capel Ferrer of the UN Economic Commission to Europe; Mr John Welsby of the British Railways Board; Mr Pit Treumann of the Europeant Investment Bank; Mr Günther Hanreich of the Austrian Ministry of Public Economy and Transport; Dr András Timár of the Hungarian Ministry of Transport; Mr Christopher Garnett of Europennel and Dr Adrian von Doemberg of Deutsche Lutthansa.

WORLD PHARMACEUTICALS

A distinguished panel of speakers will discuss the challenges facing London, 8 & 9 March pharmaceutical manufacturers in a changing economic climate and consider how the industry is responding to the need to balance ethics with business interests and to win both political and public confidence. Arranged by the Financial Times, in association with Coopers & Lybrand, speakers include: Mr Richard Lane, Merck & Co; Dr Franz Humer, Glazo Holdings, The Honourable John Dingell, Committee on Energy and Commerce, US House of Representatives and Dr Max Link, Sandoz Pharma.

All enquiries should be addressed to: Financial Times Conference Organization, 102-108 Clerkenwell Road, London ECIM 5SA. Tel: 071-814 9770 (24-hr snawering service) Telex: 27347 FTCONF G, Fax: 071-873 3975 or 071-873 3969.



A Somali youth detained for attempting to steal food from the port complex in the capital, Mogadishu, cries with pain as a US Marine unties his hands

#### Minister quits over air crash

MR Madhavrao Scindia, India's minister for civil aviation and tourism, resigned on Saturday, hours after an Uzbekistan Airways aircraft leased to Indian Airlines crashed at New Delhi airport, Shiraz Sidhva writes.

The Russian pilot, who was told not to land in the dense early morning fog, apparently did not understand the command in English. The 165 pas sengers aboard the Russian TU-154 aircraft crawled to safety. The aircraft was one of

seven TU-154s leased by Indian Airlines, the governmentowned domestic carrier, after pilots went on strike on December 10.

Mr Scindia said he was taking moral responsibility for able to resolve the strike for more than a mouth. This compelled "Indian Airlines to lease the Russian aircraft due to the unfortunate attitude of

Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, minister for parliamentary affairs, will take temporary charge of the civil aviation and tourism ministries. Mr Scindia, who belongs to the royal family of Gwalior, had distinguished himself as railways minister in Mr Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet, and had held his current office since June 1991.

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#### battling for Huambo ship was still in Huambo, a provincial capital 500km south-

Angolan rivals still

ANGOLAN army troops and rebels are still fighting for con-trol of Huambo, despite an announcement by the government that Unita leader Jonas Savimbi's stronghold had been captured and he had fled, Reuter reports from Luanda.

The state daily newspaper, Jornal de Angola, reported yes-terday that Unita forces still controlled residential areas of the city, where most of its leaders lived. Unita's radio station said the group's entire leader-

and material losses," it said. An army communiqué late on Saturday said government troops had captured Mr Savimbi's headquarters, a villa near Huambo airport, and his supporters were fleeing.

There was no independent word on Mr Savimbi's where-

east of Luanda. "Government forces are still under fire and have sustained heavy human

> High Court", for reasons that Mr Muite said had yet to be

#### Testing times ahead for Kenyan arbiters

government that will come under close scrutiny following disclosures about the country's electoral commis-

Also under the spotlight will be the Commonwealth observers sent to monitor Kenya's first multi-party elections in 26 years. The 38-member group charged with assessing whether the poll was "free and fair" now faces searching questions about judgment and performance.

The scrutiny is prompted by the disclosure of a confidential file which casts doubt on the suitability of Mr Zachaeus Che-

ya's electoral commission. The Commonwealth group chose not to make public its anxieties about the key post, while the preliminary report on the poll also makes clear their unease about other aspects of the election.

The observers' concerns included the conduct of the registration process in many parts of the country; the nomination process, which saw 16 ruling party MPs unopposed: the intimidation, administra-tive obstacles and violence that marked the political campaign; the partisanship of state-owned radio and television; the reluctance of the government to sep-arate itself from the ruling Kanu party; and the "lack of transparency" on the part of the electoral commission.

Failure to express a specific concern about Mr Chesoni has puzzled opposition politicians who have been campaigning for his dismissal. Mr Paul Muite, a lawyer and

senior official in the FORD Kenya party, wrote in the July 13 issue of Society, a Nairobi ekly, that Mr Chesoni was "totally unsuited" to the post.
"He has been twice removed from his position as a judge in the court of appeal and the

officially disclosed. Mr Muite also noted that

T IS not only the Kenyan "before [Mr Chesoni's] appointment as the chairman of the electoral commission, there was a bankruptcy petition against him pending before the High Court.'

It was alleged, the article continued, that Mr Chesoni "owed close to K£30m [£520,000] to the Kenya Commercial Bank". Mr Muite asked whether the money was still unpaid and, if paid, how?

Opposition leaders were not surprised that calls for Mr Chesoni to be replaced were ignored by the government. "But what astonished us was that we got no backing from the Commonwealth secretariat

#### Michael Holman on doubts over Commonwealth

observer group's judgment in poll western governments," said

Mr Muite yesterday."I have no doubt that Commonwealth officials were able to confirm our information with the British and US diplomats," Spokesmen at the two mis-

sions said they were aware of the allegations but did not have proof. As the election process got

under way, the electoral commission came under increasing Some of the most scathing

comments came from Mr Hilary Ng'weno, editor of the Nairobi-based Weekly Review. "According to the Common-wealth election observer team," Mr Ng'weno wrote in an editorial on November 20, "a lot of work has already been done by the commission in preparation for the elections. But you would not know it. The commission seems incapable of, or unwilling, to tell the public what is going on.

"It holds every bit of information as if it is secret infor-

after pressure does it release the names of people it has appointed as presiding officers. This is not as it should

Widespread complaints prompted a Commonwealth intervention in mid-November. But calls for Mr Chesoni's

removal were resisted.
When Justice Telford Georges, leader of the Commonwealth group, was presented with the "Chesoni dossier" he was outraged by what he read, according to Commonwealth officials.

But he gave little public hint of it; nor did the remaining 37 observers, all of whom were aware of the file and its contents, according to Commonwealth officials.

At the heart of the problem, say some critics, was the Commonwealth group's uncertainty about its mandate as monitor, which in turn led to some confusion about its responsibil-

Its terms of reference oblige it only to say whether the poll was "free and fair". The Commonwealth's own catalogue of "irregularities" make No the

only answer. But as one observer put it, the unwritten question that weighed heavily throughout the exercise was: "What is in the best interests of Kenya?" The answer, the observer implied, could override strict application of the "free and fair" yardstick.

The question may well have dominated consideration of Mr Chesoni's file. An answer may come when the group's 100-page assessment of the conduct of the election process is published later this week.

It is too late for the observers to change their minds but the report may show the results of a post mortem on the Kenyan experience which could fundamentally affect the Commonwealth's definition of its monitoring role in the

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Eoward gell

#### Utility regulators are unfair says think-tank

By John Willman and Kenneth Gooding

INVESTORS IN Britain's privatised utilities are being treated unfairly by regulators who take unpredictable deci-sions and operate in excessive secrecy, according to a report published today from the European Policy Forum, the free market think-tank.

The EPF was launched six months ago with the public support of Mr John Major. prime minister, and is headed by Mr Graham Mather, former director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The report says utility regulators rely excessively on the personal styles of their heads, whose discretionary power makes them prey to short-term political interference esnecially in the energy market. It recommends merging many of the regulators into fewer bodies with reduced powers to amend utility licences.

It says regulators' decisions are often shrouded in secrecy - most do not hold public hearings - and there is also too little consultation by the regulators. Appeal systems are

companies they regulate. Mr Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, which has been involved in a protracted and acrimonious struggle with Ofgas, its regulator, yesterday welcomed the study.

performance of the utility regu-

lators, not least among the

"Obviously, we need a regulatory framework but one that is fair, more accountable and responsible," he said. "This will ensure the balance of interests of all concerned. What regulation needs is a code of behaviour consistent with the Cadbury report on good corporate governance." The Cadbury report was published last May.

But Sir James McKinnon, director-general of Ofgas, said the EPF appeared to be under a serious misapprehension about the power of the regulators. "To suggest regulators act at their own discretion flies in the face of the fact that there is law covering these matters. Regulators take their steps by following the law."

He implied it would be wrong to merge Ofgas and Offer, the electricity regulator. "Gas and electricity are com-The report is likely to fuel petitors and the industries ics." The EPF, he said, seemed to want to tip the present bal-

ance between customer and shareholder interests in favour of shareholders. The report recommends

merging regulatory bodies and reducing their powers to amend utility licences: Ofgas and Offer should be combined into a single Office of Energy Regulation.

• An Office of Communica-

tions should replace Oftel, the Independent Television Commission, the Radio Authority and the Broadcasting Standards Council. • The proposed rail regulators and the regulatory arm of the Civil Aviation Authority

should merged into an Office of Parliamentary scrutiny should be strengthened by a new select committee for the regulated industries to which regulators would report annually. The Monopolies and Merg-

court of appeal against regulators' decisions. Other recommendations include a regulatory charter to set out principles of regulation, based around a principle of regulatory stability.

ers Commission should act as a

# Press chief rejects proposals for tougher controls

By Raymond Snoddy

THE chairman of the Press Complaints Commission vesterday launched a fierce attack on the author of a government report on regulation of the press, accusing him of bias and of proposing censorship that would emasculate British jour-

Lord McGregor of Durris made his criticisms following reports that Sir David Calcutt QC, who was asked by the government to investigate how well press self-regulation had worked in the past two years, had recommended tough new

The controls are said to include substantial fines for newspapers which breach a statutory code of practice, a press complaints tribunal chaired by a judge and new criminal offence of physical trespass and electronic eaves-

Sir David's report was delivered to Mr Peter Brooke, National Heritage Secretary, CONTROVERSIES IN 1992

• February: Liberal Democrat leader Paddy
Ashdown's affair with former secretary

very angry at story. The People publishes story

very angry at story. The People publishes story Ashdown's affair with former secretary revealed after report in The Scotsman of injunction against press.

● June: Serialisation of Andrew Morton's book on Princess Diana in The Sunday Times. Fol-lowing subsequent coverage, Press Complaints Commission condemns journalists for "dabbling their fingers in the stuff of other people's

• July: The Independent reveals health secretary Mrs Virginia Bottomley had an illegiti-

first time in 300 years on direct on Friday, Neither Mr Brooke nor senior officials from his censorship," he said. department would comment The growing alarm in the newspaper industry at what

yesterday. Lord McGregor said the report's proposals could emasculate the British press and accused Sir David of "failing to give a proper judicious assess ment of the evidence submitted

The PCC chairman said the proposals would mean using the power of government to intervene directly in the press. "I view it as embarking for the

about heritage secretary David Mellor and an actress based on recorded phone calls.

• August: Daily Mirror publishes topless pictures of Duchess of York with her Texan "financial advisor" John November 1981 cial adviser" John Bryant and The Sun publishes "Squidgy" tapes recorded by a retired bank manager, apparently of Princess Diana.

November: Details of chancellor Norman Lamont's Access credit card account published by The Sun.

> David was asked last June to carry out a six-month investigation on how self-regulation

was working. During that period there was

succession of rows over alleged press intrusion into the private lives of members of the royal family and government Lord McGregor emphasised

tions for action are identical to those suggested by Sir David Calcutt in his 1990 report for implementation should selfregulation be seen to fail. Sir

as extreme, although there is growing support for some action to be taken against the more extreme forms of press intrusion. Action to prevent bugging of private telephone calls is most likely.

this month.

January 29.

of one-party government it was particularly important that the

only effective opposition - the press - should not be weak-

Mr Clive Soley, the Labour MP whose private member's

bill on the press receives its

second reading at the end of this month, said he thought

the reported proposals were excessive and would impede

The government plans to

oublish the Calcutt report later

Its attitude to press controls

is expected to become clearer during the second reading of Mr Soley's right of reply hill an

Initial political reaction yes-

terday suggested that the Cal-cutt recommendations are seen

two-day brainstorming session

at the Kent country house of

Chevening where the chancel-

lor met officials to discuss

options for the coming budget.

#### **US** attorney on trial over Guinness affair

By John Mason. Law Courts Correspondent

THE criminal proceedings arising from the Guinness affair enter their last lap today with the start of the trial of Mr Thomas Ward, the US attorney who advised the company during the 1986 takeover battle for

Mr Ward faces three charges related to the fee paid to him by Guinness for his services. He is accused of the theft of £5.2m, false accounting concerning the fee and procuring the execution of a valuable security by deception. Mr Ward denies all the

charges. The trial will take place at the Old Bailey and is expected to last three months. Mr Ward was arrested in June 1991 after returning voluntarily to the UK following the commencement of extradition proceedings by the British authorities

His trial is the third to take place over the Guin-

After the first trial. Mr Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, Mr Gerald Ronson, the Heron group chairman, Mr Anthony Parnes, a City stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier, were convicted between them on 28 charges of conspiracy, theft and false

accounting.
The second trial collapsed after the deterioration of the mental health of one of the defendants, Mr Roger Seelig, the former Morgan Grenfell corporate financier, while conducting his own defence. A nolle prosequi, a decision not to prosecute, was entered against

The charges against his codefendant, Lord Spens, were initially left to lie on the file but he was finally acquitted last November.

Mr David Maybew, a partner with brokers Cazenove, was due to appear alongside Mr Seelig in a third trial, but charges against him were dropped before the case came

#### **Britain** in brief

Sir David has recommended

seems to be based on sight of a

part of the report which deals

with the work of the PCC, the

body that replaced the Press

negative. The PCC in its evi-dence told Sir David it believed

self-regulation of the press was

Council.

working well.

# Fall in UK

#### acquisitions in Europe

The number of British corporate acquisitions in Europe fell last year, despite the impending launch of the single European market, according to a survey released today by Translink, the crossborder mergers and acquisitions adviser.

Preliminary findings show that only 159 deals were completed in Europe by British companies last year. The number has declined steadily from 284 in 1989, to 247 in 1990, and 175 in 1991.

Acquisitions of British companies by European buyers were also down to 200; from 239 in 1989, 279 in 1990, and 232 in 1991. Companies blamed the uncertain economic outlook and turmoil on

foreign exchanges in the final quarter of last year for the fall in corporate activity. Among UK companies the most active cross-border acquirers - and targets for foreign companies - were in banking and financial services.

Tory caution

on tax increases

Sir Norman Fowler, conserva-

tive party chairman, yesterday

joined Mr John Major, prime

minister, in cautioning against

growing calls for the govern-

ment to raise taxes to tackle its

The Conservative party

chairman appeared to side, In

an ITV television interview.

with the growing number of

Tory MPs who have expressed

disquiet at arguments by Lord

Howe, former chancellor, that

rises in taxes might be neces-

and remains the party of low taxation," he said. Last week,

Mr Major also appeared to

reject increases in tax or VAT

rates in an BBC interview with

Sir Norman's comments

came after the end of Mr Nor-

man Lamont's traditional

The Conservative party is

mounting deficit.

sary and inevitable.

Sir David Frost.

#### Decline in new companies slows

Jordans, the business information company, says the numlast year fell for the third year running but the rate of decline was lower than in either 1990 or 1991. The decline in company formations slowed in the second half of 1992, suggesting the recession may be easing. Company registrations (excluding Northern Ireland) reached 107,375 last year, down 2.5 per cent on 1991.

#### John Prideaux

Sir John Prideaux, chairman of National Westminster Bank during Britain's secondary banking crisis, has died aged 81. In 1974, when rumours regarding the solvency of the bank were circulating widely in the City, Sir John took the unusual step of issuing a statement denying the bank faced any solvency crisis.

7

Yes inter-abroad a

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#### Consumer levy suggested to subsidise British coal

By Ivo Dawnay, Political Correspondent

ENERGY civil servants are completing a list of options to resolve the damaging public row over UK pit closures amid speculation that the government might add a levy to consumer's electricity bills to pay

for a coal subsidy. The levy suggestion has been welcomed by some senior ministers as a way of keeping at least some of the 31 threatened pits open while bringing home to the public the accuracy of the government's claim last autumn that the mines were

Figures understood to have

been discussed suggest that a time-limited subsidy of between £5 and £10 a tonne might be necessary to keep the pits viable while they increase their productivity to meet a target price of £36 a

A levy would be aimed at meeting the estimated £700m cost of providing a £10-pertonne subsidy in a way that would not directly fall on the already hard-pressed exchequer. A precedent already exists in the current nuclear levy, already imposed on electricity bills.

Three draft reports by Boyd's, the Pittsburg mining engineers, Caminus Energy, consultants, and Ernst and Young, the accountants are nearing completion.

They will give ministers an objective analysis of the viability of the threatened pits, the general market outlook and the relative competitiveness of

Mr Michael Heseltine, trade and industry secretary, is also awaiting the report of the Commons industry select committee, before tabling a white paper outlining the government's proposals for the indus-

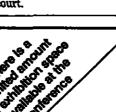
The paper is expected to be presented to the Commons by the end of this month or early

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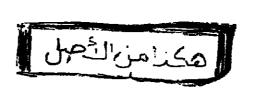
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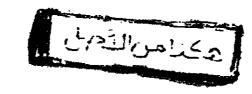
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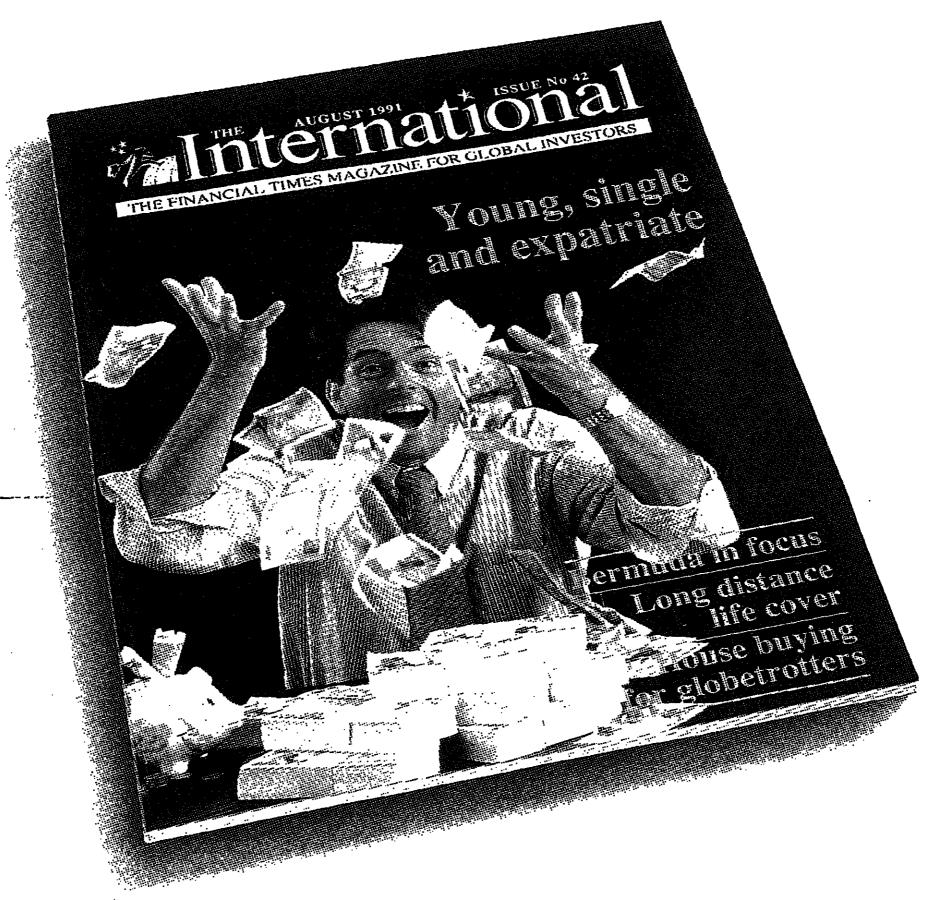
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□ 2 Employed □ 3 Consultant

□ 4 Retired

□ 5 Student/Unemployed

#### Nature of Business

□ 1 Financial Services

□ 2 Construction □ 3 Other Services

□ 4 Transport/Travel/Communications

□ 5 Distribution/Hotels/Catering

#### □ 6 Extraction (Oil, minerals, etc) □ 7 Manufacturing/Engineering □ 99 Other (Please State\_

□ 1 Under 25

**□ 2 25-34 3 35-44** 

□ 4 45-54 □ 5 55-64

□ 6 **65**+

Types of investment currently held ☐ 1 Domestic Equities

□ 2 International Equities

□ 3 Offshore Deposits

□ 4 Property □ 5 Bonds

□ 6 Precious Metals/Gems

□ 7 Unit Trusts/Mutual Funds

□ 8 Other International Investments

□99 None

#### Which of the following do you have?

☐ 1 Credit Card (e.g. Visa) □ 2 Gold Card

□ 3 Charge Card (e.g. Amex)

□99 None

# Ain't no mountain high enough



marketing bave made the 450-person Rethinking company one of Europe Europe's leading and most fashion able makers of "performance" out-door clothing, including rucksacks.

jackets, trousers and gaiters. Like so many of Germany's medi-um-sized companies - the "Mittel-stand" - Berghaus has long

enjoyed soaring sales and an export ratio of around 50 per cent. As from last week, the company

is preparing to pioneer in a new direction: by revolutionising its relationship with retailers in continental European markets. Its move is likely to affect all its competitors-Berghaus is also rethinking a dis-

tribution system it set up in Italy and Germany as recently as 1987-88. That, in turn, results from a newlyimplemented two-year revamp of its manufacturing process, which has been shifted from mass production to flexible short runs.

Berghaus is not German, Swiss or Austrian, as its name suggests. It is thoroughly British, or to be more specific, steeped in the gritty character of its home town of Newcastle upon Tyne in north-east England.

In the last 20 years it has built thriving export businesses to Italy, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Bene-lux and Switzerland (in approximate order of current sales volume). Only in France has it "utterly failed to crack the market so far", admits David Udberg, its joint managing director. He blames vicious domestic price competition and French

In the current financial year sales will top £20m for the first time, with pre-tax profit climbing towards the Σ750,000 peak of the late 1980s after two years of problems caused by the factory reorganisation and the UK

When, four years ago, the Finan-

continental European sales strat-egy, it had just introduced what was intended to be a faster and cheaper way of responding to orders from the 500 small family shops which constitute the fragmented Italian market. And it was on the verge of extending the approach to

A vital back-up for both markets was to be a £300,000 German computer system in Newcastle, capable of reserving and allocating stock

With the exception of the German arrangements. little of this has turned out as planned. Almost all of it had to be rethought.

or a start, the computer software failed to function as promised. The result, from July 1989 to the end of that year, was five months with no management accounts or credit notes and two without invoices. No sooner had that problem been

resolved than the company was hit by the third mild winter in a row. Both Berghaus and its retailers were burdened with stock. The company's reaction was to pull out of skiwear - a strong seller in Italy - and accelerate a move

towards more flexible garments with removable layers, which sell throught the year. The immediate result was a drop in Berghaus's Italian sales by 15 per cent in 1990-91. This has been more

than recouped, with this year's Ital-

ian revenue expected to be more

which other Europeans tend to

associate with Italy. In 1987 Ber-

ghaus decided that the fragmented

Italian market required a domes

tic staging post to hold stock and

They would be exported in bulk

then repacked in Italy for individ-

Berghaus had chosen what

seemed an ideal location just

ual delivery. But the plan failed.

turn round orders quickly.

in front of Germany and fast-growing Norway (with £1.6m each) as Berghaus's largest export market. At the same time as the computer and the weather were wreaking

havoc, Berghaus's Italian branch and warehouse were having problems (see panel). To put no finer point on it, "we got our fingers burned," says Mark Held, the 35-year-old export director.

Just as the Italian warehouse has been replaced by a direct distribution system, Berghaus may have to reconsider the role of the efficient but costly German distribution base it set up near Cologne in 1989. Such a review may be sparked by more radical decision: Berghaus's

attempt to steal a march on its continental competitors with a new rapid order and delivery system for continental Europe which will allow retailers to cut stocks drastically. Until now, outdoor clothing retailers in continental Europe have mainly ordered stock and taken delivery in two frenetic seasons. This has meant retailers holding

stock for up to six months. In recent years British retailers have shied away from this pattern because of soaring interest rates. unpredictably dry and hot weather and the effects of recession.

As a result, Berghaus this year launched a "stock response system" based on the sort of "direct sellthrough" ( or "just-in-time") supply relationship between makers of fastmoving consumer goods and their UK supermarket customers. This

On the wrong track in Italy

promised motorway to the town was never finished, leaving only

twisting local roads. There were

no computer links - a side effect of

With a staff of five, "the ware-

house became a very, very expen-

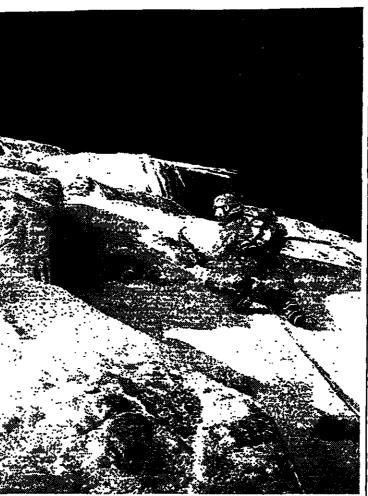
sive addendum to our Italian

operations", says Mark Held,

ghaus had to have bulk consign-

export director. To reach it. Ber-

its UK computer problems.



shifts most of the stockholding risk, and much of that for demand forecasting, on to suppliers.

As from this month Berghaus's main UK retail outlets can choose to hold an agreed range of goods and up to four weeks' of stock, in exchange for automatic replenishment from Berghaus once a month, with delivery within a week. In 1989, for both home and export markets. Berghaus's order-to-delivery cycle on many items was as long as

on to smaller lorries nearby. From

the warehouse, individual cartons

destined for shops were put on to

In mid-1989 Berghaus decided to

puli out, and instead subcontract

the physical distribution - and

fixed overheads - to an Italian

company which carries out a simi-lar service for Benetton, the cloth-

a third set of trucks.

Last week, as a precursor to introducing a full UK-style "stock response system" this autumn, the company relaxed its £1.500-2.000 minimum order levels for its main continental European retailers to a single garment. Berghaus will thus no longer be

able to rely on having a fat order book seven or eight months ahead "Its a drastic change - the biggest since I joined the company nine years ago," says Held.
"We'll have to forecast better.

manufacture speculatively, and take a risk on stock." The company's back-up stock is being raised by 30 per cent. To its main export customers, Berghaus is aiming to offer the

same order-to-delivery response of seven days or less that it provides This will put on severe trial its planning, manufacturing, supply and distribution arrangements. It will also test whether the theory of

A previous article in this series appeared on January 4

during 1993.

an efficiently operating single Euro-

pean market can become a reality

#### A patent case for looking after your company's rights

By Trevor Black

nnovators often fail to understand the management of intellectual property rights. involving patents, copyright, designs, trade secrets and trade and service marks that is normally the reserve of specialist practitioners. Yet coming to terms vith such issues can be pivotal to successful corporate innovation.

An example is Company X, a newly-founded software firm. Just as its first product was about to be launched, the company received a letter from the solicitor of the former employer of one of the founding members, claiming that valuable information belonging to their clients was being used in breach of a confidentiality

They also claimed that copyright-protected programs belonging to their clients were used in the development of the new company's products. Threats of injunctions and demands for damages and return of the copyright works were made.

It was also suggested from another source that as the company had spent much time and money on promotional literature, which included the name of the product, that they check that this was not being used by anyone else. A search by a trade mark agent found that the name was similar to a name aiready registered for the same sort of products and that use of it would entitle the registered proprietor to sue for infringement

The copyright and confidentiality issue was resolved by the grant of a licence to use the information and copyright work. But the company had to select a new name and logo, which meant the original promotional literature had to be

The commercial ramifications were that the company could not claim to have exclusive rights over the finished product, the product was late to market and much management time was wasted and legal fees expended.

But a few precautions could have ensured that the intellectual property matters, crucial to the success of the product, were secured. Such measures include: • Raising staff awareness of

PEOPLE

intellectual property rights through workshop training and the development of appropriate guides: These can range from a general introduction to IPRs to industry-specific ones. Or they can be aimed at specific personnel such as scientists operating in sensitive research areas where technology leakage could have dire commercial repercussions. They can also be subject-specific on, say, trade

 Innovation and intellectual property audits. Innovation auditing should address "hard" technologies such as engineering capabilities as well as sales and distribution networks, marketing expertise and financial control. Intellectual property auditing

should focus on the underlying intangible legal rights which the business enjoys and might create in any product development.

Let

**T**ith this data, management can develop mechanisms to trigger an automatic review of IP issues at all stages of business and product development.

Management controls include guides to inform managers how to protect IPRs when they arise. Other guidelines would establish the proper procedures for confidentiality agreements. Control mechanisms could prevent technology leakage by the unvetted disclosure of patentable materials from research departments. Staff responsible for licensing would follow safe practices in both the pre- and post-licensing function.

Finally, intellectual property legal protection insurance enables the insured company to sue those who threaten to infringe its rights and to defend itself if accused of infringing the rights of others. Good IP risk management policy is having in place the best control environment together with appropriate insurance.

IP problems can normally be predicted and prevented. Innovators should ensure that they use the intellectual property system which is there to protect their interests, saving management time and potential legal and other fees. The author heads Trevor Black & Associates, intellectual property management consultants

#### **CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

#### **Developing** power plant at Kent site

JOHN BROWN, a member of the engineering division of Trafalgar House, is to construct a 38MW gas turbine based heat and power (CHP) plant at Svenska Cellulosa's (SCA) Aylesford papermaking

The company was awarded the Aylesford contract by National Power who will own the plant and supply the electrical power and heat to meet SCA's current energy and process needs on site. The project is worth in excess of £20m.

John Brown will design, engineer, construct and com-mission the CHP plant on a full turnkey basis. Under a further contract, being finalised, John Brown will maintain the plant for a period of six years with an option of extending beyond that period.

Construction will begin early this year and the plant is scheduled to be completed by

#### £50m orders won by Donelon Tyson

DONELON TYSON has secured orders totalling £50m, which are evenly spread across the group's construction divisions. J.F. Donelon & Co, the spe-

cialist tunnelling and civil engineering subsidiary, recently won £20m of new water spend" orders including a £15.5m contract for the construction of a sewer in Clee-

Tysons, the building and joinery manufacturing arm, has won orders totalling some £30m including two contracts of £8.5m each to Tysons Construction for work on the Ainpool and Valley Road Business Park on the Wirral.

#### Hong Kong office scheme Sankey joins Pearson board.. GAMMON CONSTRUCTION, will be joined together by a for turbine buildings and cais-

dine Matheson, has won contracts worth more than £129m in Hong Kong and Asia in the final four months of 1992.

The largest is an £88m contract for twin office towers on Tong Chong Street in Quarry Bay. Named the Dorset House development, one tower will be 43 storeys high and the other will be 40 storeys high. They

the adjacent Cornwall and Somerset House where the company will carry out renovation work. Other recently awarded work

includes ground engineering contracts worth more than £30m in Hong Kong and the New Territories.

The largest of these is a £10m contract for driven piling Caltex's Tsing Yi island.

the Hong Kong-based company jointly owned by Trafalgar House Construction and Jar-will link the development to Lamma Island. A further fllm worth of

building and project management contracts have been won. They include the project management of the Shanghai World Plaza in China, the design and construction of a cargo handling facility for the Lok On Pai transhipment centre and a jetty extension for

#### Leicester western bypass plan

AMEC has started the New Year with a trio of contracts worth around £90m, all of which were given the "green light" in the run-up to Christ-Heading the list is the £36m

A46 Leicester western bypass contract, which AMEC Civil Engineering won in joint venture with Alfred McAlpine. The 130-week contract, which started on site on January 4, covers construction of about 12.5km of dual lane carriageway located to the north and vest of the city from the M1 at Kirby Muxloe to the A46 Fosse

Work includes the construc-

tion of a range of grade sepastarting in May and ending in rated junctions and over 50 July next year structures. Crossings include the Rothley Brook at Thurcaston, the Grand Central Railway, the River Soar, the Grand Union Canal and the M1.

At the same time, AMBC Design and Management and American sister company Morse Diesel International have been awarded a construction management contract to fit-out the new London headquarter's for Barclays Bank. Located at 54 Lombard Street, in the heart of the City of London, the 17-storey 300,000 sq ft building will be fitted out

In Bristol, AMEC Developments has been given the go-ahead on the £34m Severn

Gate project, following approval of a £3.6m city grant by the Department of the Environment. The project will provide 430,000 sq ft of industrial and

distribution facilities on a 35 acre site. The development is part of a

400 acre landholding owned by AMEC's joint development uated adjacent to the proposed link from the M5 to the new under a phased contract, Severn crossing.

#### Sewerage services in Buenos Aires

The Argentlnian government has awarded the 30-year con-cession to run Buenos Aires' water supply and sewerage services to the AGUAS ARGENTINAS CONSORTIUM, led by Lyounalse des Eaux-Dumez.

Strategy and documentation for this first water privatisation in South America were prepared by Obras Sanitarias De La Nación (OSN) assisted by a specialist team from UK

Unsuccessful bids were made by UK-based consortia headed

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by Thames Water International Services Holdings and North West Water International, though the Aguas Argentinas group retains a UK interest through a five per cent city. Anglian Water stake.

The city's water supply services are to be upgraded and expanded. Extensive investment in civil engineering and electromechanical works is

Capital investment will include rehabilitation of two water treatment plants serving trunk sewers.

respectively, potable water trunk mains and tunnels and rationalisation of the distribution network throughout the Sewerage works will include

the construction of entirely new sewage treatment facilities to serve a population in excess of 8m, involving screening, primary and secondary treatment. There will also b an extensive upgrading of the

#### New passenger facilities

TEAM SERVICES, based at Enfield, has won two packages, one to upgrade British Airways' Concorde, First Class, Executive Club, Club and Oasis lounges at Heathrow and the other for higher education student accommodation worth,

The project at Heathrow is complicated by the need to keep two of the three floors

times. At Bolton Institute of Higher Education Team is also arranging the funding for the design and build of an extra 318 bedstudy rooms (£3.35m) while at the University of Aberdeen the company is designing and building a fur-ther 389 individual spaces

(£5,3m). Both college projects are due for completion in time for next involved fully operative at all autumn's student intake.

#### Vernon Sankey, who took over extensive search, prescribing

as chief executive of Reckitt & Colman at the beginning of last year, is joining the board of Pearson, owner of the Financial Times, and becomes the publishing, banking and industrial group's ninth and youngest non-executive director. John Hale, who was manag-

ing director of Pearson between 1983 and 1986, is retiring at the next agm, when Sankev will also replace him as chairman of the audit commit-

Lord Blakenham, Pearson's chairman and chief executive, says: "We felt we needed an experienced director who not only belonged in a younger age engaged headhunters in an



group but who was capable of chairing the audit committee when Hale goes". He adds that, as with previous non-executive appointments, the group had

strong international experience as an important selection crite-Sankey 43 joined Reckitt

Colman in 1971 from Oxford. Since 1989 he had been group director responsible for the North American operations of the household products, toiletries and food company, before returning to the UK to succeed John St. Lawrence as chief executive. Earlier in his career he had also worked in Denmark and France. He says it is his first, and will for the moment be his only, non-executive directorship. "These things take time if you are going to do them properly."

wanted," says chief executive

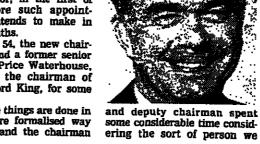
Whitehead points out that

#### and Wheatley joins Babcock's

Engineering group Babcock International, which last summer said it wanted to achieve a better balance of expertise on its board, has invited Alan Wheatley to join as a non-executive director, in the first of two or more such appointments it intends to make in coming months.

Wheatley, 54, the new chair-man of 31 and a former senior partner of Price Waterhouse, has known the chairman of Babcock, Lord King, for some

"But these things are done in a much more formalised way these days and the chairman



Other non-

#### executives **■ Jack Davis at CANTORS**

having retired as md. ■ John Martyn, group finance director of Dalgety, at LLOYDS ABBEY LIFE; Sir Norman Wakefield has retired. ■ Sir Derek Hornby, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, at SEDGWICK GROUP: Hugh Collum and Rupert Hambro have retired.
■ Nigel Keen, founder of the

Cygnus group, at LAIRD GROUP. ■ Sandy Muir has resigned from CATTLE'S (HOLDINGS). ■ Derek Cook, former deputy chairman and group chief executive of Pilkington, at The LITTLEWOODS ORGANISATION.

REDLAND. ■Sir John Rogers has retired from FIRST TECHNOLOGY. Tony Vickers, formerly saies



some considerable time considering the sort of person we

Wheatley, with his City contacts, "fills an obvious gap" following the death of Rocky Stone, a former Smith New Court director and a leading light in the Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation, who had been on the board of Babcock since 1966 and who died last April. The chief executive says his

Oliver Whitehead

own "personal preference" would be for an industrialist as the next non-executive director, but that that search is not very far advanced

#### ■ Ken Minton, chief executive of Laporte, as chairman of JEYES GROUP in succession to Michael Moseley. ■ Brian Jennings has retired from EBC GROUP. ■ Sir Terence Heiser, recently

retired permanent secretary

at the department of the

WATER. ■ David Kenning has retired from TOYE & Co. ■ Peter Jansen (below), chief



executive of MB-Caradon, at BURMAH CASTROL. ■ Sir Norman Lessels as chairman at HAVELOCK EUROPA on the retirement of Sir Lewis Robertson.

Rab Telfer, former chairman of BSI Standards and of the petrochemicals division of ICI, at TEESSIDE HOLDINGS. ■ Alan Hayes, chairman of the European Trade Committee of the DTI and recently retired chairman of ICI's agrochemicals and seeds business, at WHATMAN. ■ Peter Burnell has resigned from WAVERLEY MINING FINANCE and from BUTTE

MINING on his appointment as an executive director of Minorco (UK). ■ Keith Simpson at STYLO. ■ Andrew Sim has resigned from NORTHUMBRIAN FINE

■ Anthony Glenton, formerly vice-chairman, as chairman at NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY, on the retirement of Kenneth Hilton

#### Insurance moves

■ Following completion of the £33m management buy-out from Brown Shipley, Group, the specialist schools insurance broker, has announced two new appointments. David Godfray, 51. who has been with the group since 1960, has been appointed managing director. Carl Openshaw, 54, a former executive director of the Guthrie Corporation, the trading and agribusiness group, takes over as finance and development director. Openshaw, like chairman Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, is a keen cricketer, and has captained a highly successful Kent over

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BERUN

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■ Tony Hart (above left) is appointed md, Maggie Belson director of information, and Eamon Bardon accounts director at MERRETT MANAGEMENT SERVICES, part of Merrett Holdings.

Kent Urness (above right) has been appointed md of St

Paul (UK) and will become ceo

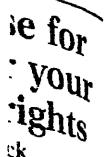
on April 5 when the present chairman and ceo Varticis Boghos continues solely as chairman until he retires a year later. ■ Rick May, deputy chief MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL, has been appared executive of CLERICAL has been appointed a director of Coryo-CM Life Insurance Corporation, its joint venture with the republic of Korea. John Ferguson, formerly executive vice-president of Coryo-CM Life Insurance, has returned to the UK to become development and insurance marketing director of CML ■ Christopher McKnight has been appointed a director of ATTWOOD & HART.

Brichard Coleman and Steve Taylor have been appointed directors of H CLARKSON AND COMPANY.

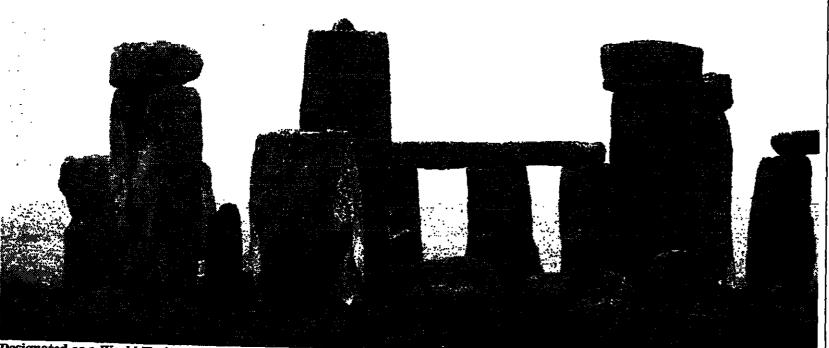
Terry Marris, formerly administration director of Black Horse Financial Services, has been appointed operations director of HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE. ■ Ted Constable, a former md

at Frizzell Life & Financial Planning, has been appointed a director of HOLMWOODS





interpretation



Designated as a World Heritage Site by Unesco, Stonehenge is described as the most important pre-historic monument in Europe

# Let the stones speak for themselves

Colin Amery considers Stonehenge and the winning design to house the tourists

Theatre/Malcolm Rutherford

Growing beyond the fringe

good one. Some of the lines are

very amusing in a P G Wode-

house sort of way. As the hero,

there is an excellent perfor-

mance by Samuel West.

shortly to appear in Tom Stop-pard's new play Arcadia at the

National Theatre. The whole

cast, including Eileen Page as

the grovelling Lady Lancaster.

does well. Yet the question one

has to ask is what is a cast of

this size (17) and distinction

doing in a piece like this at the

Compare Mr Cinders to the previous King's Head produc-

tion, Elegies for Angels, Punks

and Raging Queens. The latter

had a cast of 33, and made a

virtue of it. It succeeded not

just because it was good in its

own right, but because it was

new and different. Elegies can,

and should, be seen again

when it moves to another

fringe theatre, the Drill Hall off

Tottenham Court Road, on

January 19. It is what the

fringe theatre ought to be

King's Head?

t was Inigo Jones who was asked by King James I of England and VI of Scotland to offer an account of the origins, meaning and purpose of Stonehenge. His thoughts and researches were not published until 1655, and when they were they were curiously inaccurate and speculative. Jones thought that the group of megalithic stones was a Roman temple in the Tuscan Order, open to the heavens, and dedicated to Coelus, or Uranus, the oldest god in the classical pantheon.

Like many architects Inigo Jones was not above re-interpreting history to his own ends. He was at the time an enthusiast for the severity of the Tuscan Order and the simplicity of Roman temple architecture. It suited him to see the monument as a reinforcement of his own historical ideas.

Today we look at a monument like Stonehenge in a variety of different ways. It is described as the most important pre-historic monument in Europe. It is designated as a World Heritage Site by Unesco. It is still the site of some strange solstice rites when white robed Druidic figures try to bring together the forces of time and space to manufacture a creative coincidence based on the certainties of geometry. It is a gathering place for Romanies and travellers drawn there as if by a giant magnet. Above all we still look upon Stonehenge

he best of London's

fringe theatre is out-

growing its original

purpose - which was

plays that might not be seen elsewhere. Theatres like The

Gate in Notting Hill, The Bush

in W12 and The King's Head in

Islington are now suffering

from the problems of their own

high standards of acting and

directing, the performances are

often far better than the basic

script. Besides, the economics

of playing to a full house of

under 100 people must be ques-

tionable. The next move must

be seek more space and better

financial arrangements in

order to show their wares to a

wider audience, which I under-

stand is what The Gate is now

doing by appealing to its ulti-

mate landlord, Allied-Lyons.

Such thoughts are prompted

by two fringe productions last

week: Mr Cinders at the King's

Head and Waiting at the Water's Edge at The Bush. Nei-

ther is wholly satisfactory. The

King's Head, which is perhaps

for a modest expansion.

Precisely because of their

as a place of mystery, a place that has a strange and powerful hold upon the imagination.

In London until January 16 at the Royal Institute of British Architects (and later in Wiltshire) is an exhibition of the ideas of six architects, called Visions for Stonehenge. Galvanised by the energetic new chairman of English Heritage, Mr Jocelyn Stevens, 150 architects submitted proposals for new facilities for visitors to the monument. The present arrangements for the one million or more people who visit the site annually are grotesque and inconvenient. The brief for the new proposals is for a centre one kilometre to the north of the stones for visitors, where they will also park their cars. From this distant site you will walk processionally to the stones, which will be once again more isolated and united with the landscape by the removal of much of the fencing and the A344 road, which at present passes within feet of the sacred

The winning architect from the six short listed is Edward Cullinan - who also won the last Financial Times "Architecture at Work Award." The other five were: Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones: Birds Portchmouth and Russum; Future Systems; Colvin and Moggridge Landscape Architects; and Plincke Leaman and Browning.

the most eclectic of all the

fringe, has had a go at Vivian

Ellis's 1929 musical comedy

before. It revived Mr Cinders in

1983 and saw it proceed to a

successful run in the West

It is much less clear why the

piece should be revived again

now, except in the hope of find-

ing the honey pot a second

time. The hope may be forlorn.

In this production by Martin Connor Mr Cinders achieves

the unusual distinction for a

musical of slowing down when-

ever the music starts and

speeding up whenever we return to the dialogue. The

normal technique in a musical

is the other way round, and

while it might be original to

stand convention on its head,

the trouble is that the music is

not quite strong enough: two pianos and some pretty thin

There are some incidental

pleasures. The story - a male version of Cinderella - is a

It was a difficult competition for an architect, because it really called for invisibility for any new buildings and a lot of effort to be put into the enhancement of the setting of the stones themselves - which are, as far as we know, untouched by the hands of even the most ancient architects. Circumspection and reticence are not always qualities associated with architects, but Mr Cullinan has designed a simple scheme which consists of a single storey visitors' centre with a grass roof which gives the appearance of being under-

ground. There is a potentially hand-

some circular viewing terrace and a

promenade along the roof top along

which you can saunter and contemplate

the distant view of the standing stones. The worrying thing about this new facility, which still has to go through the planning hurdles and is unlikely to be opened until 1996, at the earliest, is that it is so enormous. Much of the space is taken up by amorphous halls apparently designated for "interpreta-tion", exhibitions and displays. There is a separate audio visual theatre to "introduce" the visitor to Stonehenge and a restaurant for the serving of Stonehenge snacks and Druid dinners. There will be a shop selling souvenirs

candles in the shape of Stonehenge,

full length Druid outfits, horns and

harps and plastic mistletoe. There are

about: bringing in a challenge

via the back door. There is no

reason why Elegies, having

made its introductions, should

The problem with the new

production at The Bush is that

the play is over-ambitious. The

Bush has recently specialised

in new Irish work, notably

Billy Roche's Wexford Trilogy.

Lucinda Coxon's Waiting at the

Water's Edge turns to Wales

and Nova Scotia in the early

1920s. It is about, in no particu-

lar order, mining disasters,

guilt, feminism, capitalism,

class differences and the rela-

tionships between servants and

masters and especially ser-

vants and mistresses. As a

text, I found it pretentious, to

put it mildly.
Yet you have to go to The

Bush, which must be the most

uncomfortable of the fringe

theatres in London, to see how

a good production in a packed

small house can take hold.

Directed by Polly Teale, even

not play on a larger stage.

also special rooms for the changing of nappies, delivery bays for the unloading of Coca-Cola bottles and rooms for the large numbers of staff to rest their limbs and smoke their cigarettes.

This Stonehenge experience will be surrounded by a "landscaped" sea of nearly 1000 cars and coaches. Visitors will have to walk on grass paths (which will surely soon wear out) to the monument itself.

The architects who have entered this important national competition are not to be blamed for the nature of the brief, which has been drawn up over eight years by endless committees of bureaucrats and well intentioned do-gooders of all kinds. But there is no doubt at all in my mind that the right thing to do at Stonehenge is to moved the offending roads, so that the stones are more remote and mysterious, and then do everything possible to lessen public interest in the site.

All the bogus "interpretation" in the world is not going to add any certainty to anyone's knowledge of Stonehenge.
All the shopping and parking, lavatories and nappy changing will do nothing to enhance the real nature of this monument. A distant car park and a long walk is all that is needed. It will save English Heritage from drumming up sponsorship and perhaps allow the stones to speak for themselves.

> some of the sillier lines and gestures almost come off. And would be quite wrong to think that the small stage it enhances it. This is a riveting experience, and one can see why actors and directors are prepared to work there, as at

The Gate, almost for nothing. My point is that they have begun to deserve something better in the way of conditions. Too many people who would enjoy the fringe still do not go. How to attract them is what we should now be thinking about,

Mr Cinders, King's Head, (071) 226 1916 until early February. Waiting, The Bush Theatre. (081) 743 3388 until January 30. Elegies, Drill Hall from 19 January, (071) 637 8270.

\* In my review of another fringe play, The Curse of the Pharaohs, at the Lyric Studio in Hammersmith last week, the parts were transposed. The excellent Egyptian is played by Adam Fahey and the equally excellent Howard Carter by Nick Rawling.

#### Opera/Max Loppert

#### Don Carlos

n Tim Albery's new Don Carlos production for Opera North, Spain is a cheerless, pitiless place of imprisoning high walls, narrow vistas, sombre surfaces and hard planes of light. Whether cloister, monastery garden, town square or palace study is the setting, the removal of all Mediterranean warmth is intentional. In the later acts the rigid containment of the visual line is at last breached - only to reveal at the back of the stage a landscape stained blood-red.

This spare, subtle, bleak Verdi staging has been designed by Hildegard Bechtler in a manner marrying Appialike abstraction to a wonderful painterly refinement of colour and line; it is altogether a sustained feat of dramatic economy. (Only some opening-night waywardness in the lighting box blurred the sharpness of its outlines.) In the mediumsized Leeds Grand Theatre, on a miniscule budget, there was absolutely no question of Opera North simulating French Grand Opera spectacle a á la Visconti or Zeffirelli; but style - and subject have been matched with an imagination and intelligence unshackled by budgetary restriction.

The choice of text has been made a crucial part of this fastidiously concentrated

approach. Opera North opts for and his walk have been polthe four-act (1883) version, Verdi's severely purposeful reduction of his original (1867) expansive five acts; and gives it in Andrew Porter's superb translation. People on the point of being persuaded, by the more fanatic adherents of the Surtitle School, that opera in the vernacular is now a hopelessly old-fashioned notion should rush to Leeds: a demonstration awaits them of the extraordinary, close-binding "contract" that can arise between singing-actors and audience in the moment of theatrically sharing their native

language.
On Friday this reached its peak in the scene for Philip and Posa: never before have I been so completely gripped by its smallest pinpointing of communicative nuance, its shifting weights and balances of dramatic and musical insight, its developing theatrical momentum. Since this brought together, in Albery's quietly intense staging of their dialogue, the two most powerfully eloquent members of the cast, was no coincidence.

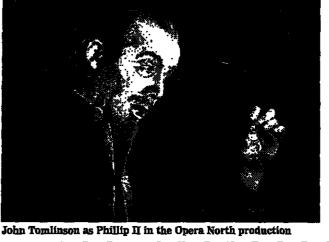
Anthony Michaels-Moore, beautifully free and forward of baritone timbre, effortlessly ardent and noble in every utterance, is already a young Posa of high class (who wil join the highest once his trill

ished). John Tomlinson, whose short stature adds to the impression of a Philip at once fiercely overbearing and plerced with self-doubt, bared the king's soul - fearlessly. frighteningly. In the study monologue the soft singing may have gone hollow, the pitching a touch bumpy, yet in the context of the staging the naked truthfulness of the performance seemed, if anything,

Both singers threw out each word as if it were an expressive lance aimed at the opera's heart. Less so Claire Powell's Eboli, but her sparky personality still sent flashes through the prevailing gloom, and in "O don fatale" she darkened it with strict control of means. This artist is developing apace, to impressive effect. Linda McLeod, a mezzo turned soprano, suffused her first Elisabeth with tenderness, grace and dignity; only the last degree of security and focus at the top is wanting. In the title role the American tenor Richard Burke has the hardest task, and at first appeared unequal to it, but mustered his vocal forces in time to deliver the farewells with poise and affecting sincerity.

A company's first Don Carlos is only the beginning. A conductor's likewise: Paul Daniel will surely learn to keep the brass more firmly in check, to hold a more consistently secure balance between dra matic tension and release. The care with which he nursed his singers (Miss MacLeod being lovingly supported through the long phrases of Elisabeth's two arias) was a clear indication of the heartfelt seriousness which has informed Mr Daniel's and Opera North's - whole approach to Verdi.

Supported by Arthur Anderson & Co and Weatherall Green Smith; in repertory at the Leeds Grand until January 29, then on tour to Nottingham, Birmingham and Man



#### Concerts/David Murray Spanish songs, French winds

Wolf's Spanish Songbook used always to be the province of senior artists. Even more than his Italian Songbook, it tests the expressive range and penetration of any singer, whether or not the songs are shared between two voices - as they were by Anne Sofie von Otter and Olaf Bar at the weekend

(twice over) in the Wigmore

Old memories were hard to suppress. This young pair offered a moral of earnest intelligence, careful pacing and any amount of good taste; that left much to be discovered yet. Both were happiest in the wry, romantic songs, especially on a teasing note (Miss von Otter was delightfully forthright, Bar good at comic defenciveness, though in piano his projection was sometimes frail). Darker undertones had to be taken on trust - the despair behind 'Ach Im Maien Wars', for example, or the numb misery in Dereinst, dereinst'. Which is not to deny that Bar made a good fist of the great, tragic 'Alle Gin-

gen, Herz zur Ruh', nor that

von Otter touched the heart

Those, and many other prettily turned songs, were all from

the 'secular' part of the Songbook where at the piano Geoffform too - in some fleet, delicate accompaniments there is really no-one to touch him. The sacred or 'spiritual' songs 10 of them at the start) were another matter. Both singers were inclined to over-reverence. despite a lovely, floated 'Gie ihr Schwebet' from the mezzo-soprano, and Parsons was

unyieldingly stately. The baritone rose nobly to the wonderful 'Blendend ihr ins Augen bricht' line in 'Ach, Wie Lang die Selle Schlummert!' - but there was no broad lift from the piano, only an unchanging marmoreal tread. In fact, the 'spiritual' tempi struck me as considerably slower (and much less varied) than Wolf can have expected especially with younger singers: stretching things out to the limit doesn't automatically suggest soulful depths. Some of those songs can grab you by the throat; on Friday we had to be content with suave, wellmodulated singing, and the

omplete perfor- strings with her Juliettish occasional sharper insight, mances of Hugo 'Geh, Geliebter'. A Poulenc feast in the same hall on Thursday (his birthday) had been more straightforward, and yet displayed more complex riches. Not because outweighs Wolf; but because the clarinettist Michael Collins had assembled experienced wind-colleagues to deliver nieces which they know like the backs of their hands, and which reward such seasoned players with some of the most appealing music composed for their instruments in this cen-

> To Collins himself went the late Clarinet Sonata, of course, and its companion sonatas for flute and for oboe were treated with no less expert tenderness and wit by Philippa Davies and Gareth Hulse. Richard Watkins boarded the difficult Horn Elegy (for Denis Brain) with rare confidence. The pianist Noriko Ogawa, mostly idiomatic and thoroughly musical, accompanied everybody with bright tact, and seized her opportunities in the big Trio with oboe and bassoon and the racketty, overflowing Sextet. A very good time was had by all.

# INTERNATIONAL

#### ■ BERLIN

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#### OPERA/DANCE

Komische Oper The main event this week is the first night of Harry Kupfer's new production of Les Contes d'Hoffmann on Fri. Neil Wilson sings the title role in a staging designed by Hans Schavernoch. The repertory also includes Gluck's Orfeo on Wed with Jochen Kowalski (229 2555) Deutsche Oper This week's performances include Tosca on Wed with Galina Kalinina, Cosi fan tutte on Thurs, Der filegende Hollander on Fri with Robert Hale, Peter Schaufuss' Nutcracker production on Sat and Don Carlo with Julia Varady on Sun (341 0249) Staatsoper unter den Linden Tonight Meyerbeer's L'Africaine. Tomorrow: Entführung. Wed and Sun: Patrice Bart's new production of Minkus' bailet Don Quixote, Thurs: Die Fledermaus. Fri: Tiefland. Sat: Berghaus-Gielen production of Pelléas et Mélisande. Jan 25: Dmitri Hvorostovsky song recital

CONCERTS

lyrics.

Schauspielhaus Tonight's concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra is conducted by Lorin Maazel and features symphonies by Mendelssohn and Mahler. Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat Milan Horvat conducts Berlin Symphony Orchestra in works by Marcello, Hummel and Strauss, with trumpet soloist Maurice André. Sun: Paavo Berglund conducts Berlin Radio Orchestra In works by Kokkonen, Grieg and Prokofiev, with piano soloist Justus Frantz (2090 2156) Philharmonle Tonight Kurt Sanderling conducts Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra in works by Prokoflev and Brahms. Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat Dennis Russell Davies conducts symphonies by Ives and William Bolcom, plus Villa-Lobos' Third Piano Concerto (Cristina Ortiz). Sun, Mon: Yuri Temirkanov conducts Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra in works by Rimsky-Korsakov, Sibelius and Shostakovich. Jan 20: Bernard Haltink opens two weeks of concerts with Berlin Philharmonic (2548 8232) THEATRE Schlosspark Theater has a new production of Alan Ayckbourn's Hero of the Day, directed by

Niels-Peter Rudolph (793 1515).

Schiller Theater has Die schöne

about xenophobia in Germany

(312 6505). Berliner Ensemble

by Peter Palitzsch (282 3160).

has a new production of

seen daily at Theater am

Fremde, Klaus Pohl's topical play

Shakespeare's Pericles, directed

Neil Simon's Plaza Suite can be

Kurfürstendamm (882 3789). Metropol Theater has Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Evita daily till Thurs (203 64117). Jan 17-24 at Hebbel Theater: Bob Wilson's production of Gertrude Stein's Doktor Faustus Lights the Lights (251 0144)

> Tickets and information for theatre, revues, concerts and nightclub shows available from City Center Theater und Konzertkasse, Kurfürstendamm 16 (tel 882 6563 fax 882 6567) and Theaterkasse im Europa-Center (tel 261 7051 fax 261 9285)

#### ■ BONN

 The new management of the Bonn Opera, led by Giancarlo Del Monaco, presents its first production next month in the reconstructed Opernhaus: Otello conducted by Dennis Russell Davies, staged by Del Monaco, with Alexei Steblyanko in the title role (first night Feb 14). The opening season, which runs till July, also includes new productions of Der Freischütz. il trittico, Cav and Pag, Salome and Werther (773667) Highlights of the

Beethovenhalle programme this month include a visit from the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra conducted by Herbert Blomstedt (Wed), Mozart and Bruckner concerts conducted by Ferdinand Leitner (Thurs and Fri), and a programme of orchestral music by Časella, Rakhmaninov and Prokofiev conducted by Sixten Ehrling (Jan 28, 29). Crommelynck Piano Duo plays

music for four hands by Ravel, Debussy and Rakhmaninov tomorrow at Schumannhaus

#### **■ GENEVA** A ballet production featuring new

works by Itzik Galill and Christopher Bruce can be seen daily till Fri at Grand Théâtre (311 2311). Jean-Pierre Ramphal plays Krzysztof Penderecki's new flute concerto on Wed at Victoria Hall, in a programme given by the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra conducted by Penderecki (311

#### **■ LEVERKUSEN**

FESTIVAL OF BRITISH MUSIC The second half of the festival opens this week with a nine-concert tour of North-Rhine-Westphalla by the Nash Ensemble featuring quintets by Herbert Howells and Elgar, plus music by Mozart and Weber. The tour includes visits to the Dusseldori Tonhalle tomorrow, Mülheim on Wed, Krefeld on Fri, Leverkusen on Jan 19 and Munster on Jan 21. The final section of the festival takes place early next month, when Alexander Gibson conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in works by Britten, Walton and Elgar (with cello soloist Alexander Baillie) in Leverkusen, Witten, Osnabrück and Dulsburg (202-563 6803)

■ MILAN

Teatro alla Scala 20,00 Gidon

Kremer violin recital. Tomorrow and Thurs: final performances of Don Carlo. Wed: Nutcracker. Next Mon: Samuel Ramey song recital. Next Tues, Wed, Fri: Georg Soiti conducts orchestral concerts (7200 3744)

#### ■ NEW YORK OPERA/DANCE

Metropolitan Opera Tonight's performance is the last this season of Jenufa, with Gabriela Benackova and Leonie Rysanek. Tomorrow and Fri: La bohème with Leona Mitchell. Wed and Sat afternoon: Semiramide with Lella Cuberli and Marilyn Horne. Thurs: James Levine conducts first night of Otto Schenk's production of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, with Bernd Weikl, Hermann Prey, Karita Mattila and Francisco Araiza, Sat. Donald Runnicles conducts Die Zaubertiöte, with Dawn Upshaw (362 6000) State Theater New York City

Ballet's season continues daily except Mon till Feb 21. Among this week's events are an all-Robbins evening tomorrow and the premiere of a new work by Peter Martins on Wed (870

CONCERTS

Avery Fisher Hall Kurt Masur conducts New York Philharmonic Orchestra tomorrow in a programme including Haydn's D major Cello Concerto (Yo Yo Ma) and Dvořák's Eighth Symphony. Wed: Aprile Millo is soprano soloist with Orchestra of St Luke's. Thurs, Fri afternoon, Sat and next Tues: Masur conducts Shostakovich's Symphony No 12, with Sergei Leiferkus (875 5030) Carnegie Hall Frederica von Stade gives a song recital on Thurs. Robert Shaw conducts Berlioz's Requiem on Sun afternoon. Jan 19; Philadelphia Orchestra, Jan 21, 22; Russian National Orchestra, Jan 23; Cleveland Orchestra (247 7800)

#### ■ VIENNA

Staatsoper Tonight and Fri: Lucia di Lammermoor with Edita Gruberova and Alfredo Kraus. Tomorrow: Die Zauberflöte. Wed and Sat Khovanshchina with Nicolai Ghiaurov, Thurs and Sun: Entführung, Next Mon: Der fliegende Hollander with Varady, and Salminen (51444 2955) Konzerthaus Tonight. St Petersburg State Orchestra plays works by Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. Tomorrow: Mara Zampieri sono recital. Wed: Mitsuko Uchida plays Ravel with Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie. Sat afternoon and Sun morning: Philippe Entremont conducts Vienna Chamber Orchestra in works by Mozart and Tchaikovsky (712 1211) Musikverein Tomorrow: Isaac Karabtchevsky conducts Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, with soloists including Lucia Popp. Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat: Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos conducts Vienna Symphony Orchestra In works by Brahms and Rimsky-Korsakov, Sun alternoon:

Sylvia Marcovici plays Bruch's

Violin Concerto (505 8190)

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1030-1100, 1800-1830 World Business This Week Super Channe.

SUNDAY

0130-0200, 0530-0600 FT Media 1330-1400, 2030-2100 FT Business

gible feeling of relief in the diamond-cutting centres of Antwerp, Bombay and Tel Aviv. because the diamond producers' cartel run by De Beers of South Africa has regained its

tight grip on the market. Only a few months ago, a large number of unwanted stones was flooding the market, and there were fears that rough (uncut) diamond prices

But now traders suggest that prices are getting firmer, and there are shortages of particular types of polished stones. "Rough (diamond) buyers say the market is now in balance rather than a buyer's market as it was a few weeks ago," says Mr Mark Cockle, editor of Diamond International, the trade publication.

A few traders suggest that De Beers' first rough diamond price increase since a 5.5 per cent rise in March 1990 is not

However, both diamond producers and De Beers itself have incurred considerable financial pain to return the market to stability. Sales by the group's London-based Central Selling Organisation, which controls at least 80 per cent of world trade in rough diamonds, fell 13 per cent from the 1991 level est for five years. De Beers warned last summer that it might cut its 1992 dividend in March, and industry observers say it used up all the \$800m cash it had in the bank at the end of 1991 and was forced to

Mr Harry Oppenheimer. whose father founded De Beers and sister company the Anglo American Corporation of South effectively has control, said recently: "Paying dividends is a high priority, although in the nature of De Beers not neces sarily the highest. The highest priority is keeping the money together to protect the diamond industry so that we'll continue to pay dividends for another 100 years.'

Apart from its own production in Namibia and South Africa, De Beers has contracts to sell most of the rough diamonds produced by Angola, Australia, Botswana, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Tanzania and Zaire, It operates a "buffer pool", stocking diamonds in bad times and liquidating stocks when demand runs ahead of supply.

Rough stones are released to the market in a controlled stream, through "sights" werp, where De Beers tried to offered by the CSO 10 times a buy them. At the height of the

**Cartels** appear to be forever

Kenneth **Gooding** says the diamond market has been stabilised

CSO diamond sales

82 84 86 88 90 92

year to about 160 carefully cho-

sen buyers. De Beers offers the

quantities and types of dia-

monds that its market intelli-

gence network indicates the

market can absorb. Each buyer

is offered boxes of diamonds

costing between \$500,000 and

\$25m and has to accept or

Traders maintain that the CSO reduced the value of dia-

monds on offer at each of the

last five sights of 1992 to a total

of about \$300m - low by

recent standards. At the same

time, De Beers told diamond

producers to cut their previ-ously agreed deliveries by 25

per cent (permitted under CSO

contracts at times of stress),

which means the company's

stockpile is not growing at

Last year De Beers also had

to cope with an unexpected

flow of rough diamonds from

Angola where, at its peak,

about 50,000 private enterprise

diggers were picking stones

out of Angola, mainly to Ant-

The stones were smuggled

POBLICA

AR PORTUGAL

from dried-up river beds.

reject them all.

such a fast rate.

Rumours of substantial smuggling out of Russia have also dogged the market. However, De Beers says the fiveyear marketing contract signed in 1990 with the then Soviet Union allowed 5 per cent of production to be sold outside the cartel. The rough diamonds surfacing in Moscow for export to the west outside the cartel's channels are mainly from this source, according to De

When the contract was signed, De Beers advanced the Soviet Union a \$1bn loan, and Soviet diamond stocks were moved from Moscow to London as collateral. De Beers says that, in spite of the subsequent political changes, Russia has kept its side of the deal and paid interest on the loan on

Mr Michael Coulson, analyst at the Credit Lyonnais Laing financial services group, says it is good news for the diamond market that stability has been achieved at CSO sales levels above those seen through much of the 1980s (see chart). But he suggests there will have to be substantial growth in demand - about 6 per cent a year following a "recovery" ar with 12 per cent growth to absorb all potential supply the late 1990s.

Ironically, much of the extra supply is coming from De Beers's new R1.1bn Venetia mine in the northern Transvaal which, when in full production later this year, will become South Africa's biggest diamond mine. Mr Coulson says: "Some sug-

gest it won't be until 1998 that the market will be entirely in balance – and the CSO will still be left with a substantial diamond stockpile to finance.' De Beers is looking east to help mop up the extra supply. Having developed the Japanese appetite for diamonds virtually from scratch over the past decade, the company is looking to new markets in China and India by the end of

he outbreak of public rush, De Beers' buyer in Antskirmishing over the werp spent nearly \$40m in one relevance to Labour of Mr Bill Clinton's US election victory is really a

The group estimates that about \$500m worth of stones was smuggled out of Angola last year, representing a 10 per coded debate about the extent to which the party must cent addition to world supply. address the values and preju-This compares with Angolan production of about 1m carats dices of the middle classes. To many insiders, it might rough diamonds worth about \$100m in 1991.

equally be viewed as a struggle for influence over Mr John Renewed political tension Smith, the party leader and war in the country between Labour's trendily radi cal middle-class tyros on the recently has stopped the smug-gling and even brought an end right and the old cloth-capped workers, espousing gloom and to the government's own diaconservatism, on the left.

For the party's few optimists that, behind the apparent complacency over Labour's fourth successive election defeat, a dehate is under way about what, if anything, can be done to avert a fifth. Yet there is still little evidence that any profound change in the party's public persona is imminent.
In BBC interviews yesterday,

both Mr Smith and Mr Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, who is frequently cited as the arch Clintonite and party "moderniser", were falling over themselves to insist that hallowed party theology was not in danger The party leader made it

clear that he regarded tamper-ing with Clause IV - the party constitution's controversial commitment to state ownerinsisted that Labour's union links were secure. Only a little later, Mr Blair genuflected to the left by stressing that, while there was a case for parties of the left to be tougher on crime (a Clinton bull point), its social context could not be ignored. Despite these assurances

ome even on the so-called softleft, such as Ms Clare Short MP, believe that there is a clandestine "project" by senior Labour figures to hijack the leadership, abandon the unions and the poor, and jettison core

As introverted as ever, Labour is conducting its postmortem in coded language and nods and winks, thereby adding credence to Mr Nick Raynsford MP's much-quoted claim that the party is "sleepwalking to oblivion"

There is no doubt, however that - as Mr John Prescott. the party's transport spokesman, said last week - a battle is under way for the heart and soul of the party between the revisionist modernisers and the so-called consolidators or traditionalists, most vocally represented by Mr Prescott. What is seriously in question is whether it is sufficiently takIvo Dawnay reports on Labour's identity struggle as the modernisers confront the traditionalists

# Class warfare in the people's party



ing into account the views of voters Labour so desperately needs to attract.

For the moment, the modern isers appear to be making the running. While stressing that there is no question of Labour becoming a non-socialist party along the lines of the Demo crats, they insist that the Clinton victory brings important ons about updating the party's identity.

Such claims infuriate the traditionalists, who believe that efforts to concoct a new publicrelations gloss for the party have served only to alienate its basic appeal. Mr Prescott and others argue that Labour should concentrate on rebuilding its withered working-class grassroots, make the case for a measure of public ownership, and campaign on its convictions about social solidarity

For the modernisers, this formula amounts to little more than a naive faith that Conservative failures and "one last heave" - a redoubling of efforts to sell old-fashioned Labourism - will be enough to win power. They argue that a decade of Thatcherism has irrevocably changed society and, more importantly, voters' aspirations. In consequence,

and full employment.

they say, Labour must address itself to the mood of individualism by broadening its appeal to embrace the white-collar middle third of society, whose politics centres on self-interest rather than the

collective good. Their case was bolstered last week by the leaking of a confi-dential Labour poll, showing Labour has failed to make any improvement in its appeal since the April election defeat, and that voters in the electorally vital south of the country continue to identify it as "a party of the past", lacking both credibility and coherence.

With boundary changes due by 1995, which are set to award the Conservatives another 20odd seats to add to their 65-seat advantage over Labour, modernisers like Ms Patricia Hewitt and Mr Philip Gould, two long-time image consultants, say excessive optimism over the party's 20 per cent opinion poll lead is a danger-

ous chimera. Mr John Smith has so far refused to show his hand on what looks increasingly like an outbreak of class warfare within the people's party. He cannot afford to do so for long. During the next three months, the party leader will probably

have to decide crucial questions of great symbolic resonance in the struggle between the two sides.

The commission on electoral systems, under Lord Plant, and the national executive's committee on the party's constitutional links with the trade unions are to report shortly. Both committees are deeply divided. In the end, the questions of proportional representation for the Commons and the extent of union influence in the party will have to be resolved by the national executive committee, heavily influenced by Mr Smith's personal

Mr Smith will be hard put to find formulas on either question that satisfy both the modernisers' and traditionalists' camps. Compromise or delay, however, will smack of

Beyond these immediate issues, the Labour leader must plan a more comprehensive route march out of the political wilderness. Aides insist planning is already well under way. But some, such as Mr Frank Field, the maverick Birkenhead MP, feel the pace of change is still far too slow. "We are staring a fifth election

that the machinery for change is already in place. The Commission on Social Justice, under the chairmanship of Sir Gordon Borrie, the former head of the Office of Fair Trading, will begin work this month, promising a review of all the options on tax and benefits. That will report in 18 months. Committees on consti-tutional reform, under Mr Blair, and on European policy have been set up with orders to

"We should be preparing as it

Loyalists, however, argue

In the meantime, officials say, Labour will project itself as the party dedicated above all to success: both that of the nation, reversing Britain's postwar decline, and that of the individual, helping people to do better and achieve more.

be ready to report to this year's

"The simple truth is that for too long we have all been starved of success, dependent on a government which aims too low and so achieves little Mr Smith wrote recently, "Peo. ple want a hand up not a hand

Yet is all this nothing more than a continuation of Kinnockism? With ideology on the retreat, the central power struggle is over how to resolve Labour's identity crists by giving electors a more convincing account of its goals.

Those advocating that Labour should adopt Mr Chinton's appeal to what he described as the working middle class, with a message eschewing special interests in favour of the national one, seem to have caught the leader's ear. It is doubtful, however, whether Mr Smith could risk the traditionalists' wrath by endorsing fully a report by Ms Hewitt and Mr Gould which commended the SDP-Liberal Alliance for abandoning all the language of class politics and suggested projecting Labour as "the non-political party".

A highly principled politician, steeped in Scottish Christian socialist tradition, Mr Smith's instincts are to appeal to the altruism of the electorate and the good sense of the party, not to resort to factionalism and schism. Both may be

The 1992 election suggested that Britain's voters are more self-interested than enlightened. And if he attempts to keep both Labour's traditionalists and modernisers happy, there is a danger that he will end up alienating both - as well, for good measure, as the

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL Fax 071 873 5938. Letters transmitted should be clearly typed and not hand written. Please set fax for finest resolution

#### Inevitable conclusions h about bank motives

From Mr Richard Davis.
Sir, The receivership of Lilley is a clear indication that the inept custodians of Britain's financial institutions have decided that companies should be refused additional financial support where the banks will receive a full payout for their money in a receiver-

ship.
The spectacle of banks sprinting for the receivership door when they can see an opportunity to make an exit without any loss of book value illustrates the fundamental malaise of the financial sys-

It is hard not to conclude that these moves will be taken by banks in order to reinforce their capital ratios against the inevitable write-downs that they face on the truly bankrupt companies that they continue to support.

The inevitable consequence of this behaviour is the destruction of relatively healthy companies in favour of those which are dead in all but name. It is only a pity that the UK has neither a Chapter 11type process to protect compa-nies operating profitably, nor sufficient legal remedies for investors to challenge the banks' motives in forcing companies into receivership. Richard Davis. 47 Heyford Avenue, London SW8 1EA

From Mr William Hodgson. Sir, A special resolution requires a 75 per cent vote of approval by shareholders. The recent demise of both Sale Tilney and Lilley, owing to a lack of unanimity among their respective bankers, could pos-sibly have been avoided if banks had learnt, at last, that the power of a charge over assets should also be accompa-nied by responsibility of effec-tive ownership of those assets. One rule for the goose another for the gander, is not a satisfactory recipe in a reces-

sion. William Hodgson, Up Marden,

Universities failed by mediocre policy

From Prof B McA Sayers. Sir, Your leading article, "University challenge" (January 5), starts down the right path, but goes nowhere near as far as the national interest

Major university institutions

like Imperial College are

demands.

indeed a national asset; every one of the six engineering departments in the City and Guilds College (the engineering faculty of Imperial College) was top-rated against interna-tional standards in the latest Higher Education Funding Council Research Selectivity Review. As you imply, it is wasteful dissipation of an asset to require such institutions as this, for financial reasons, to focus dominantly on undergraduate teaching. The great power of Imperial College lies in its research strength and its postgraduate teaching; national interest demands that these strengths be utilised to

the full. The dominant role of a few universities such as Imperial College is at postgraduate level, and we welcome public recognition of this fact. Yet the accountants are in control, as in so much of Britain today; public funding largely follows undergraduate numbers. Despite ministerial assertions, funding for research, and even more for the research students through whom much research is done, is inadequate to meet the needs of the coun-

try's top institutions or the potential national opportunities that they could provide. In the technological interests of the country, this is mediocre

But in current circumstances, can the UK - even in its own interests - adequately capitalise upon Imperial College and other such institu-tions? If the UK cannot, perhaps Europe should? We at Imperial College are able to identify a range of long-term research interests which transcend national frontiers. These seem to us to be of socio-economic significance to Europe as a whole, and offer an ideal and sustained opportunity for highquality research training of postgraduate students. Now, above all, is the time

for vision, for thought on a supranational, European scale. Should Europe now be considering strategic investment in a few special institutions?

B McA Sayers,
Dean of the City and Guilds

College, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London SW7 2AZ

#### Drug prices

From Dr Frank Diener.
Sir, Dr John Griffin (Letters, November 10) and Mr Sonabend (Letters, October 30) have cited different drug price indi-ces for the year 1991. The Euro-pean Consumer Organisation, BEUC, made in 1988 an often cited EC drug price comparison which was updated in 1992 by the German Federation of Pharmacists Association, ABDA. This renewed EC drug price comparison shows a fig-ure for 1991 as: Denmark 143; Netherlands 134; Irish Republic 130; Great Britain 125; Germany 111; Belgium 101; EC average 100; Italy 96; Luxembourg; 95; Greece 86; Spain 84; France 64; Portugal 58. Frank Diener, ABDA,

Deutsches Apothekerhaus, Beethovenplatz 1-3, 6000 Frankfurt am Main 15.

#### Cargo law

From Mr James Munto. Sir, One point apparently not yet picked up in the many yet picked up in the many post-mortem reviews of the Braer tanker disaster is the following. Oil tankers should be handled as if "dangerous cargo" (such as toxic waste), and therefore shipowners/charterers should be forced by EC law/UN resolution (a) to file details of the route of each voyage with a suitable supervisory age with a suitable supervisory agency that has powers to agency that has powers to veto/adjust/delay, and (b) to accept "pollution prevention pilots" on board for parts of the voyage where problems might be expected.

I suggest that these simple measures would probably have prevented the recent tanker disasters in Spain and the Shetlands. James Munro,

49 Blandy Road, Henley, Oxon

#### Flaws in the idea of an 'output gap

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From Mr Chris Dillow. Sir, Mr Samuel Brittan (Jannary 7) reports that estimates of the gap between actual and potential output have been revised down. Unfortunately, he omits to say that the fact of such a revision casts grave doubt on the very concept of

an "output gap". Such a gap is only meaningful if the rate of growth of potential output is independent of actual output growth. Mr Brittan belatedly recognises that this is not the case, as he says that the capital scrapping caused by the recession has reduced potential output. He should have added that capital scrapping is not the only way in which the recession has reduced potential output growth. The weakness of investment may have exacerbated the mismatch between what UK industry can produce and the composition of demand, so that even capacity which has not been scrapped is, in effect, unusable. This is confirmed by last year's sharp rise in imports, despite the

weakness of demand. This convergence of "potential" output towards its actual level means that the idea of an "output gap" is - and always was - profoundly flawed. Those hoping that this "gap" will hold down inflation may be profoundly disappointed. Chris Dillow, UK economist, Nomura Research Institute

Вигоре, Nomura House, 1 St Martin's le-Grand, London EC1A 4NP

#### Governor who?

From A Spence. From A Spence.

Sir, Your editorial,

"Choosing a new governor"

(January 7), in reference to the
Bank of England courageously
suggested that it was the economy that was important, not
the views of the prime minister. the views of the prime minister and the chancellor.

You also described the new governor (whoever he or she may be) as a "he" which, I trust, was unintentional. 33 Leyfield, Worcester Park,



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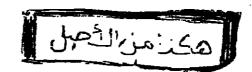
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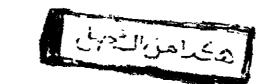
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#### FINANCIAL TIMES

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# History and George Bush

IT WOULD, sadly, be rather said that he did so.

The new circum term of office were to end in one more confrontation with Iraq - a decisive victory for the US in purely military terms, yet inconclusive and unsatisfying politically. For the presidency as a whole, in retrospect, has some-thing of that quality: a period in which the US reacted to world events with competence and firm-ness, yet failed to implement, or even to articulate, a broader political strategy.

The conventional wisdom is that Mr Bush was successful in foreign policy, but paid the political price for neglecting the domestic economy. Seen from a distance, however, his economic management rates at least a beta plus, while his foreign policy looks uninspired.

His competence and professionalism are not in dispute and indeed compare favourably with those of his immediate predecessors. Yet it is arguably not with them but with Harry S Truman that he should be compared. because no president since Truman has been presented with quite such dramatic challenges.

He did act with admirable steadiness in insisting that Germany could and must be reunited within Nato; and in ensuring that the break-up of the Soviet Union was not accompanied by loss of control over its nuclear weapons. But he never seemed to grasp how much was at stake in the heroic attempt of Russians and other east Europeans, after decades of communist oppression and mismanagement, to adopt market economics and liberal democracy.

#### Shared criticism

No doubt any simple transposition of the Marshall Plan model would have been inapproprlate. No doubt in the 1990s the US could reasonably expect a much greater share of the economic burden to be borne by its allies. Certainly any criticisms of Mr Bush have to be addressed in equal or greater measure to the leaders of Europe, whose interest in the matter was more obvious and direct. Even so, the transformation of eastern Europe called for a western effort of solidarity on the Marshall Plan scale, not just in financial terms but in imagination and leadership; the US president was the per-

The new circumstances also required a reforging of Atlantic ties, which could no longer be taken for granted in the absence of the Soviet threat. The US secretary of state did call for such a reforging in December 1989. If nothing much has come of it, that is as much the Europeans' fault as Mr Bush's. The latter at least appreciated the importance of an open trading regime with rules accepted by all parties. Yet, without in any way excusing the nearparalysis of the European Community, it must be asked whether he really gave this issue the priority it deserved.

Withdrawn slogan

He will be remembered as the leader of the coalition that reversed Iraq's annexation of Kuwait, giving a new authority to the UN Security Council, and as the man who proclaimed a "new world order" in 1990, only to withdraw the slogan a year later. He has been ready to exploit some of the opportunities offered by the absence of a global rival, deploy-ing US military force to impose a minimum of international order in the Middle East and, more recently, a minimum of civil order in Somalia. But these actions have been reactive, and carefully limtted in time and scope.

They have been accompanied, too. by repeated assertions that the US cannot and will not act as the world's policeman. Yet that, it seems, is a role the US cannot wholly avoid. It needs to be institutionalised and multilateralised. The US should not have to bear the whole burden, but equally it cannot expect always to be in command; nor can it continue to treat the UN as essentially a diplo-

matic convenience. The windows of opportunity that opened in 1989 have not yet banged shut, but many may be close to doing so. The American people have denied Mr Bush a second term, sensing perhaps that he lacks the stature for such a unique historical moment. They have elected a younger, more glamorous and more articulate president, who is not the first to declare the domestic economy his main priority. He may find, like others before him, that he is ultimately judged by his success or son best placed to provide such failure in discharging America's

#### Nationalising the police

PLANS FOR a radical reorganisation of the police service in England and Wales are to be discussed by a special cabinet committee this week. The plans would reduce the number of police authorities, transfer responsibility for police funding to Whitehall and put police committees under the control of government appointees. If agreed, they amount to the effective nationalisation of the police, a step which is not only unnecessary but also undesirable.

At present the police service is provided by 43 police authorities. They receive 49 per cent of funding from local government and 51 per cent from central government. Elected councillors fill two-thirds of the places on the authorities, with the balance going to magistrates. Some authorities share boundaries with county councils; others span several local government areas, with representatives from each. The exception is London's Metropolitan Police, which is directly accountable to the home secretary, because of its national importance.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, is proposing to reduce the number of police authorities, possibly to 25. Their funding would come entirely from the govern-ment. No doubt in consequence, the government would appoint the majority of police authority members. Policing would become a national service, delivered by quangos largely unaccountable to those they serve.

#### Civil liberties

Mr Michael Howard, environment secretary, is reported to be opposing this further diminution in local accountability. He is right: too many public services are now in the hands of unelected Whitehall officials. It is also undesirable on civil liberties grounds that so much power be concentrated in the home secretary's hands. In a country where one-party rule is dangerously close to entrenchment, locally accountable police services are part of an essential

system of checks and balances. Centralisation is also wrong from the point of view of effectively tackling crime. It is true that some forms of criminal activity require a national approach. able centralisat But this can be tackled – as it public service.

already is - through co-operation between police forces to deal with problems such as terrorism and drug trafficking. Police action to stop flying pickets moving around the country during the last miners' strike demonstrated that effective national action was pos-sible even in conditions of politi-

Trusting relationship

More important, the success of day-to-day policing depends on relationships between the police and the communities they serve. Without trust, the flow of information central to preventing crime and catching criminals dries up. So too does confidence in the responsiveness of the police service, an essential element in creating a safe and secure environ-ment. Such relationships are unlikely to be fostered by a police service run from London.

There may be a case for fewer police authorities. It may be true though it has yet to be proved that larger forces are more efficient. And police authorities coterminous with countles may be prone to the political interference that dogged the old watch committees when police forces were under municipal control. A breakdown in the relationship between the former chief constable of Derbyshire and local politicians on the county council led to a deterioration in the standard of policing in that county in the 1980s.

However, the police services should be more independent of Whitehall, not less. If change is needed, it should be directed towards strengthening the accountability of police authorities to elected local authorities. The shape of those authorities is currently under review by Sir John Banham's Local Government Commission. Change should therefore be deferred until the Commission has completed its reorganisation of local government.

In any case, the Sheehy Inquiry is examining police pay, grading and efficiency. Further changes in policing procedures are likely to follow the report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Mr Clarke has more than enough on his plate without this undesirable centralisation of yet another

Our rise can be likened to that of a person who opens a tiny shop, works relentlessly to increase profits and save money and, one day, looks around to find that the shop is one of the biggest in the neighbourhood. We can no longer simply think only of ourselves - Professor Shinkichi Eto, president of Asia University,

hen Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan's prime minister, touches down in Thailand on Friday as part of a four-nation tour of south-east Asia, he will deliver a speech billed by his government as an important postwar review of the country's role in Asia. It is already being dubbed the "Miyazawa doc-

Mr Miyazawa will show due deference to the US, stressing the strategic importance of its security role. But, between the lines, the speech will suggest that Asians should settle their own disputes and that Japan will gradually move closer to

centre stage. His visit to Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand comes as the Japanese recognise that the political and economic sands are shifting. On the eve of a new US presidency, which Tokyo expects will be inward-looking, and with Asian nations debating how they should solve regional security issues, the Japanese government senses an opportunity to reform its smallshopkeeper mentality.

Japan's bilateral ties in Asia are

as complex as the individual nations are diverse. The relation-ship with China is haunted by history and a sense of inferiority, while links with south-east Asia are coloured by Japan's wartime brutality.

However, Tokyo feels that the time has come to develop an "Asia policy", with principles as relevant to South Korea as to Burma, Mr Miyazawa's tour will not finalise that policy, but marks an important step along the way.

Japan's Asia policy cannot be

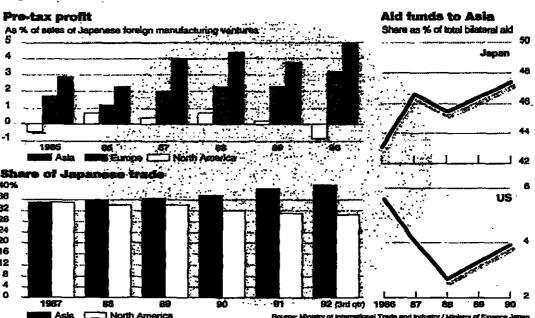
considered without reference to the US. In the postwar period, the US has been Japan's largest market by far, and maintaining stable rela-tions was the first priority for a country with an export-driven economy. Bowing to the US lead on foreign policy and defence issues allowed the Japanese government to concentrate on civilian development and avoid awkward foreignpolicy decisions.
Differences have emerged

between US and Japanese interests. Japan has seen the period since the June 1989 massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square as an opportunity to improve relations with China, while other countries,

# Japan covets lead role in Asia

'Miyazawa's doctrine' will set out a change in regional emphasis for his country, writes Robert Thomson

Japan's sun rises in the east



coolly. Japanese business sees Vietnam as an ideal location for lowcost, offshore production facilities, and Tokyo recently resumed aid to Hanoi, while the US maintains its embargo on business with Vietnam. Japan is increasingly reliant on trade in Asian markets. They account for 41 per cent of its total trade, while north America accounts for 30 per cent; five years

ago, both regions had 35 per cent. The government is concerned that the North American Free Trade Agreement, encompassing the US, Canada and Mexico, may become a trade bloc, prompting more serious thought in Asia about the need for a regional free-trade area.

While Japan is concerned about a North American trade bloc, some US Congress representatives have complained of a "yen bloc" in Asia. Research by Bank of Tokyo found a 50 per cent rise in the proportion of yen-denominated imports over the past five years, "attributable not only to a relative decline in trading transactions with the US, but also to a relative increase in trade with east and south-east Asia, where the including the US, were treating it share of yen-denominated transac-

tions has traditionally been high". The Japanese government has not wanted to offend the US or China, or other leading trading partners. But the larger Tokyo's political pro-file, the more it is likely to draw criticism from countries apprehensive about an expanded role.

A flurry of recent government reports - though they lack detail on politically sensitive initiatives suggests there is agreement in Tokyo that Japan should take a political stand.

"As the Asia-Pacific region gains further influence and moves towards becoming an open, pluralistic region with a central role in the global community, the Japanese people must assume a heavy responsibility," says a prime minis-terial advisory panel in Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region in the 21st Century, published last month. The report, which forms the core

of the "Miyazawa doctrine", says that, in economic terms, Asia will be the "world's brightest spot over the next century".
For Japan, the region is already the bright spot amid the gloom of

and Industry shows the average return on sales for Japanese manufacturing projects in Asia is 5 per cent, compared with 3.2 per cent in Europe and -0.9 per cent in the US. Japanese direct investment overseas fell 27 per cent last fiscal year

the Ministry of International Trade

and a further 12 per cent in the first half this year, but investment in China will double this year, and has risen in Indonesia and Vietnam. Though Japanese electronics makers have had a difficult three

years at home and in the US and Europe, annual growth in demand for televisions in Asia was 10.1 per cent over the past five years, for VCRs 21 per cent, and for motor vehicles 26 per cent, according to Mitsubishi Bank. Japan, frustrated at being perceived as just a car salesman, has

already been seeking to expand its international role, especially in Asia. Foreign bilateral aid spending was increased 69 per cent over the five years to 1991. East Asia received 47 per cent of the money. Tokyo is likewise keen to play a leading role in the international debate on the environment.

It is also accumulating a small list of Asian policy successes. It is the principal contributor to funding for the UN operation in Cambodia, and its dispatch - after agonising debate in Japan - of peace-keeping personnel to Cambodia has generally been perceived, at home and abroad, as a useful contribution.

However, the most difficult challenges in developing an all-encompassing Asia policy will be in responding to issues such as the rapidly developing sophistication of Chinese military hardware. It will also mean finding a security role which respects the concerns of countries that suffered under the Japanese military, but which allows Japan to play a part in solving regional disputes such as that over the Spratly Islands – atolls in the South China Sea claimed by China. Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Taiwan.

A serious obstacle to developing such a coherent policy is the decayed state of the Japanese politi-

report on Japan's priorities for 1993 by the Keidanren, the Japanese industry federation, said that political reform will be at the centre of any serious changes in social or foreign policy. According to the 21st Century report, Japan must build a "mature democratic government", meaning that the political system should be more responsive to foreign policy challenges and less obsessed by factional fights within the ruling Liberal Democratic party.

That will also mean elaborating a more coherent framework for Japan's foreign relations. Neither the bureaucracy, which is crucial to the policy process, nor the LDP has articulated principles on democracy in Asia, for example. The military regime in Burma is still receiving aid. And when Mr Chris Patten, the Hong Kong governor, explained his democracy proposals to Mr Miyazawa, the prime minister said "I understand", preferring not to give an opinion. Officially, such statements are justified as respect for

"the diverse routes" to democracy. The need for more durable principles was stressed in another officially sponsored report, intended to be the cornerstone of a redefined US-Japan relationship. Prepared by select executives and academics, the report says Japan must clearly explain its vision "on which it must take action as a responsible great power, not passively responding to external pressure from the US or any other foreign nation".

If the small shopkeeper does begin to behave as a "great power", the challenge to redefine percentions and policies will be as great for Japan's partners as it is now for

#### **Samuel Brittan**

international recession. A survey by

#### Radio 3's false response to Classic FM



a subtle matter. Where products are fairly standardised, then a modest number of rival compa-nies and models is usually enough to meet it, so long as markets are contestable - that is, newcomers can enter

Consumer choice is

to stir them up. But when it comes to complex.

compound products such as television and radio channels, the matter is different. Bach channel is a unique product. Consumer choice is further limited when for technical reasons the number of channels is restricted and we are concerned with minority tastes, such as that for "classical" music (which, of course, includes romantic, baroque and much else).

In these circumstances, public policy has a role. If I could insert a credit card in a slot to obtain a music station of my choice. I would gladly do so. But under present

technology, radio transmission of music of high reproductive quality has to be financed by taxation (ie the licence fee) or by advertising. The UK music listener now has a

choice between the BBC's Radio 3 and the new, private enterprise Classic FM. On balance, the change is for the better. The challenge of Classic FM has livened up Radio 3, persuaded its announcers to adopt a less funereal tone and above all given listeners a choice if they do not like Radio 3's offering at a particular time.

Nevertheless the results are not as good as they could have been; and there have been some unnecessary losses. It is well known in other spheres that a duopoly can acquire many of the features of a monopoly. When there are only two producers, each tends to acquire most of the features of the other, as consumers of soap powder know only too well.

The problem has been the quality of the Radio 3 response, which fits all too neatly with the scap powder model. Classic FM has made no secret of its popular bias. In the mornings especially, pieces are usually short, single movements; there are many interruptions, not only for advertisements and news bulletins. but for telephone calls from listeners, competitions and so on. The result is better than this recipe suggests; and new recruits have been won for serious music. Moreover, at evening peak hours, there are full concerts without such breaks, consisting of classic performances of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and many others, which Radio 3 would have found beneath

its dignity to provide so frequently. Nevertheless, if the listener is to have a real choice in the mornings, Radio 3 should concentrate on providing something different from Classic FM. This is not a time of day for very esoteric programmes or avant-garde music. But at least the listener who is not in the mood for chat and bitty pieces should be able to hear continuous works of music without the interruption of the spo-



ken voice. There are many other spoken-word channels from which he can get his fill of that. Instead, however, Radio 3 has

gone from the esoteric to the populist extreme. Its morning offering of weather reports, plugs for BBC programmes, interviews and frag-mented music is hardly to be distin-

guished from Classic FM's. Indeed, the BBC change began before the new station started, no doubt as a pre-emptive effort. Thus the listener is deprived of genuine choice and the BBC is deprived of its justification for using tax finance. Above all, there is no escape from

the incessant news bulletins. I do not know what is worse; to hear identical repetitions of identical news bulletins or to hear items reshuffled and reworded to create a false impression of novelty.

The moral is quite simple, and it

applies too to the rethinking of BBC television services, where much greater sums are at stake. This is that the job of publicly financed channels is neither to provide what the commercial networks can perfectly well provide, nor to cater for very tiny groups of high-minded people, but to cater for the choices of sizeable minorities whose tastes cannot yet be supplied through normal market forces. This is a difficult doctrine for public servants to comprehend, but do so they must.

#### OBSERVER

#### Unsafe seats

■ Businessmen beware. Being chairman of a big quango is one way to collect a knighthood. But it can also damage your reputation if the quango misbehaves. Is the risk worth taking? Both the Welsh Development

Agency and the West Midlands Regional Health Authority are seeking new figureheads after government watchdogs reprimanded them for sloppy financial behaviour. The agency's chairman, Gwyn Jones, is hanging on until a successor is found, but Sir James Ackers has resigned after 10 years as chairman of the country's largest regional bealth authority following growing disquiet about its money management.

Ackers's decision to quit is a cautionary tale for other business folk. Perhaps he should have spent more time keeping an eye on the family truck-rental business, a casualty of the recession, than collecting his various quangoships.

At various times he has been on the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the National Economic Development Council, the National Training Task Force, and the Committee of Inquiry into Civil Service Pay, not to mention the body representing regional health chairmen, which he chaired. A diehard Tory, he is the sort of businessman that the govern-

ment has come to rely upon in its efforts to make the public sector more efficient. Alas, the fact that he has been temporarily replaced by Sir Donald Wilson, a 70-year-old shire farmer already heading the Mersey Health Authority, suggests ministers are now finding top-flight younger businessmen hard to attract.

#### Privy counsel Recovery or not, is Britain

returning to a more civilised culture? A colleague was lately consulted by a public relations man using a portable phone on a train to Norfolk. He was speaking from the lavatory, he said, as he was "too embarrassed to be seen taking the thing out in a public carriage".

#### Sand-man

■ To judge by the frequency of people's claims to know how to do it, turning water into motor fuel is a doddle. To go by the number on record as having actually done so, however, it's rarer than the transformation of water into wine.

The latest claimant is Professor Ilya Varshavsky of Moscow's Institute of Theoretical Engineering. "Beneath our feet is an inexhaustible supply of fuel," he says, referring to sand as a source of silicon. Apparently, if a pinch of the latter is popped into the water-filled reactor fitted to his

(BAMX)

Moskvitch limo, hey presto: out comes hydrogen to power the car. "The basic research has already been done," he told an interviewer from the Russian Information Agency, expressing confidence that the process will be widely used in everything from "cars to the construction of a lunar base".

Unfortunately, when Observer's water without an energy source. One possibility would be a

colleague in Moscow called the institute for clarification, he was told everyone was on holiday. Nor is the FT's science correspondent entirely happy with the idea, saying that it's impossible to see how silicon can generate hydrogen from

executive turnoil than most a week after Observer drew editors at Britain's Management

sun-powered photovoltaic cell made from silicon which can produce electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. Even so, management school.

The arrival of New York Times the device would at best be of little use during during Russia's long

Déclassé

bleak winter.

■ It's not the best of new years for the World Bank's globe-trotting staff. In a cost-cutting drive by its president, former J P Morgan boss Lewis Preston, first-class air travel as a matter of course has been restricted to vice-presidents and above. For lesser mortals. it's business class on flights of under 12 hours, which covers nearly all Europe and Latin America. Preston's move will be popular

in Washington where few officials enjoy comparable perks. But it could be embarrassing for Michel Camdessus, boss of the World Bank's sister organisation, the International Monetary

His staff still take first-class travel for granted.

Another gone

■ Why is it that management magazines seem to suffer from more businesses they report on? Only attention to the rapid turnover of

Today, comes news of a behind-the-scenes editorial coup at the Harvard Business Review, organ of the world's best known

columnist Joel Kurtzman, 45, in the new job of executive editor at HBR, seems to have swept the chair from under T George Harris. appointed editor in August after previously running Psychology Today and American Health.

True, the 67-year-old Harris hired, reputedly for his professional nublishing skills, to replace Harvard academic Rosabeth Moss Kanter - remains editor nominally. But it looks unlikely that his name will long top the masthead, given that Kurtzman reports directly to the magazine's publisher instead of through Harris.

Inner spirit

mug): Got him!

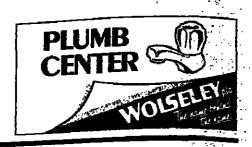
■ Anyone doubting that talent for big-business leadership can show very early may care to consider the following teatime conversation between a four-year-old and his mother, quoted in Margaret Donaldson's book, Human Minds, published by Penguin.

He: Is God everywhere? She: Yes dear. He: In this room? She: Yes. He: Is he in my mug? She (growing uneasy); Yes. He (clapping his hand over the



#### FINANCIAL TIMES

Monday January 11 1993



Negotiators try to resolve issues before Clinton takes office

#### US, EC in last-ditch Gatt talks

NEGOTIATORS from the US and the European Community are meeting in Geneva in a last-ditch effort to resolve their outstanding differences in the Uruguay round of trade talks before President-elect Bill Clinton takes

office on January 20. Officials from other countries have also been drawn into the discussions, which began on Fri-day and are expected to intensify in the coming days. Trade diplomats hope that an outline deal. or evidence of progress towards one, can be presented to the meeting of senior Uruguay round trade negotiators next Friday.

Since the US and EC settled their farm trade wrangles last November, the six-year-old round has been beset by a host of other disagreements and by political uncertainties on both sides of the

In Washington, top officials are packing their bags and looking for new employment while the Clinton transition team argues over trade policy. In Europe, France has been snapping at the heels of the Community's negotifarm trade, and the Community trade and agriculture portfolios have just changed hands.

Mrs Carla Hills, President George Bush's trade representa-tive, and Sir Leon Brittan, the 2 to aim for an outline deal by

next Friday.
This would enable Mr Clinton, if he chose, to submit a more or less complete accord to Congress by March 2, when the administration's negotiating authority expires. Failure to catch that deadline could delay the round by months, if not years.

The teams in Geneva headed by Mr Warren Lavorel, US chief negotiator, and his EC opposite number, Mr Hugo Paemen, are trying to agree a package of industrial tariff cuts and narrow differences elsewhere. EC officials say an early agreement will require restraint by Washington

in reopening the existing draft package of Uruguay round agree-ments drawn up 13 months ago. Washington has asked for renegotiation of some 25 issues.

including anti-dumping and sub-sidy rules, patent and copyright protection, and establishment of a multilateral trade organisation. The revised US tariff offer, belatedly produced on Friday, entails tariff cuts of just over one-third, but this includes zerofor-zero deals which have not yet been agreed by the EC or others. It does not include cuts in tariffs on textiles and some other sensi-

tive products, though officials have said cuts could be made in exchange for a satisfactory zero-for-zero package.

#### **Scientists** discover method of selecting

By Clive Cookson. Science Editor in London

calves' sex

THE FIRST calves whose sex was predetermined at the time of conception have been born in Cambridge, England, an Anglo-American scientific team will announce today.

The ability to choose a calf's sex, long sought by cattle breeders, is likely to transform the economics and management of livestock production worldwide. The Holstein Friesian calves three male and three female are the result of collaboration between Mastercalf, a Cambridge biotechnology company; the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research in Cambridge; and the US Department of Agriculture's Germplasm Physiology Laboratory in Belts-

ville, Maryland. The scientists are now produc ing more than 100 pre-sexed calf embryos a week for use in large field trials which are under way on farms in the UK.

If all goes well, sex determination will be available commercially within a couple of years. It will make a big impact on the dairy and beef industries, says Mr Barrie Audis, chairman of the British Cattle Breeders Club.

The technique depends on an extremely sensitive instrument, called a flow cytometer, which sorts bulls' sperm according to their genetic content. Sperm with an X-chromosome result in female calves and those with a Y-chromosome give males.

The sorting process does not give enough sexed sperm for conventional artificial insemination, making in vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer necessary. Cows' eggs are fertilised in test tubes with the appropriate sperm and the resulting embryos are used to establish pregnancy.
Mr Geoff Mahon, Mastercalf

managing director, says sex determination will be combined with other techniques of genetic selection, so that bull calves can receive the characteristics most desirable for beef production while heifers retain the best

genes for milking.

Male embryos will be most in demand, since beef farmers want

only bull calves. Mr Mahon says the likely cost of sex-guaranteed embryos is still uncertain. As a potential customer, Mr Audis says: "I could justify buying an embryo for £50 to £60 if I am guaranteed that it is a male beef calf."

With the world population of dairy cattle estimated at 220m about half of which are produced by using artificial Insemination - Mastercalf sees a large market for the technology.

ister, Mr Haris Silajdzic, full pow-

ers to negotiate on his behalf in

Mr Vance and Lord Owen

#### Italy plans to raise around DM4bn in Eurobond issue

By Brian Bollen in London

THE ITALIAN government, absent from international capital markets for two years, is expected to test its credibility among foreign investors this week as it launches one of the largest Eurobonds issued in D-Marks.

The issue, expected to raise about DM4bn (\$2.5bn) to supplement depleted foreign currency reserves, would be the first since last year's political crisis and currency turmoil which led to the lira's suspension from the European exchange rate mechanism. Deutsche Bank has been asked to arrange the country's first-

ever Eurobond offering in D-Marks which could be launched as early as today. Italy's credit standing has deteriorated over the past two years, forcing it to abandon the international financial markets and rely instead on domestic savers to

finance its large budget deficit.
Italy, which until the early 1990s enjoyed the top triple-A rating allowing it to borrow at the cheapest rates, suffered an unusual two-notch cut in its rat-

ing by Moody's Investors Service. the US credit rating agency, during last summer's uncertainty.

This blow has been one factor encouraging the government to tackle its budget deficit. The government of Mr Giuliano Amato has pushed through a tough austerity package for 1993, including privatisation and reforms for the health service, pensions, the civil service and local administration.

The new issue will be be one of

the largest D-Mark Eurobond issues seen so far and compares with the DM5.5bn issue launched in October by the British government, one of a succession of European countries which queued up to borrow the German currency after last year's Buropean currency crisis depleted their foreign currency reserves. Some central banks had an obligation to repay the Bundesbank in D-Marks for the support it gave to their currencies.

The pricing of the bonds is expected to be cautious to reflect the importance of the issue's success. A meeting of banks will be held in Frankfurt today, and pricing is likely to take place tomormaturity of five years and offer a yield spread of 50-55 basis points (0.5 to 0.55 percentage points) over the yield of five-year German government bonds.

This compares with a spread of around 10 basis points for the UK issue in October, although spreads for all borrowers have widened since then.

The issue will also be the first test of the country's worldwide standing since international banks suffered problems last year with Efim, the Italian state holding company which was put into voluntary liquidation last July. Italian borrowers were also

effectively shut out of the international syndicated loans market while bankers lobbied the Italian authorities for a commitment to repay Efim's debts in full. Although the authorities eventually agreed, bankers have still received their money.

Some of the Italian borrowers who have tested the international banking market in recent weeks found they had to pay spreads of

#### Kenya 'ordered debt write-off' for chief election official

**KENYAN** government officials ordered a state-controlled bank to write off the Ks30m (\$857,000) debt of a former judge soon after he was appointed to chair the commission that organised last month's election, according to legal sources in Nairobi

Further information about the financial record of Mr Zachaeus Chesoni, appointed to the commission in September 1991, is contained in a confidential file given to Mr Justice Telford Georges, leader of the 38-member Commonwealth group that monitored the poll.

In his first public comment on the dossier, Mr Justice Georges outlined its contents and sharply rebuked the Kenyan authorities. Interviewed by telephone at his home in the Bahamas, Mr Justice Georges, a former chief justice the action because the govern-and a privy counsellor, said: "The ment had instructed the bank to government should not have persisted in keeping Mr Chesoni on as chairman of the electoral com-

Bankruptcy proceedings against Mr Chesoni were initiated by Kenya Commercial Finance Co Ltd, part of the stateowned Kenya Commercial Bank. The bank obtained judgment in its favour but was instructed by a government official not to pursue its claim. The file reveals that in 1984 a state-controlled bank dropped an action to recover a Ks20.9m debt incurred while he was a high court judge.

During 1990, the bank revived its action to enforce the judgment. But in 1991, according to legal sources in Nairobi familiar with the case, the bank wrote to its lawyers telling them to drop

write off the debt, now standing at Ks30m as a result of accrued interest. This was soon after the decision to appoint Mr Chesoni to the electoral commission.

The existence of the dossier was not disclosed when the Commonwealth observer group gave its qualified approval of President Daniel arap Moi's victory in a preliminary report on January 1. A full report is due to be published this week.

In its preliminary report, the Commonwealth observers criticised the electoral commission for "lack of transparency". But also said that in the last weeks of the election it "made every effort to act impartially".

Testing times, Page 5

#### Jaguar

Continued from Page 1

Continued from Page 1

Jaguar brand image of not building the car in the UK would "depend on how good the vehicle is", said Mr Ross. "The ideal would be to build it in the UK . . . but you must get the same cost structure and quality in Europe and the UK."

Jaguar was studying the cost of importing parts from North

the Bosnian Serbs, intended to

give the impression that they

were prepared to accept compro-mise, proved unacceptable to the

Continued from Page 1

abouts.

naval flotilla now on patrol in the Gulf said Iraq could expect no more warnings if the no-fly zone

Admiral Phil Coady said that President Saddam Hussein "has

to be given'

likely to continue and there is no plan to order an early withdrawal from the Gulf of the US naval

missiles and aircraft appear to country's south, there was no

was violated in future. Rear

resumed at all, after Friday's kill-

ing, came as a relief to Mr Vance

and Lord Owen. Without giving

any details, Mr Vance said last

night that the Bosnian Serbs had

apologised for the killing.

had the only warning he's going

US officials have long been critical of what is known as the Iraqi policy of "cheat and retreat". Close aerial reconnaissance of Iraqi defence deployments are

#### Iraq denies yielding to threats

France may use force over Bosnia camps

close to the exclusion zone in the precise word of their where-The commander of the US

attend the talks, after reportedly

having been persuaded to do so

by French President François

Mr Izetbegovic, who was due to

Mitterrand.

# A glut of gilts

THE LEX COLUMN

Desnite the Bank of England's silence on Friday, the gilts market is braced for an auction announcement this week. Favoured is a further issue of 8.5 per cent paper due 2007 which will become deliverable into the gilt future later this year. A partly-paid structure would also increase demand and, coincidentally, allow the government to tuck away funds for 1993-94 when it has to borrow £1bn a week. But it will take more than a little stocking up to satisfy that need.

Indeed, the authorities must already be examining a range of structures that might help tap particular pockets of cash. An obvious one is the convertible gilt. That would involve selling short term paper, convertible into long. Institutions with long-term investment horizons could then profit from any buoyancy at the short end of the market as European rates fall. Another candidate for revival is variable rate gilts - which might have spe-cial appeal to banks if the funding rules were changed. Or the Bank could borrow a Euromarket concept and issue gilts convertible into residual shares held by the government in privatised companies. To attract overseas investors it could issue glits redeem-able in D-Marks at a guaranteed exchange rate.

Such innovations might give the impression of desperation. If they were tailored to satisfy genuine investor requirements, however, they might help at the margin. There is no single solution to the looming funding problem. The Bank may also have to act on the suggestion from Warburg Securities that it move to monthly auctions. Ultimately, however, meeting the borrowing requirement will depend on attracting overseas money. That will require a wider difference between gilt yields and German Bunds than the resent 140 basis points. The question is whether this will be achieved through higher yields on gilts or lower

#### Wall Street

Tension in the Middle East may have been a talking point in currency markets last week. But the wobble on Wall Street was due more to domestic factors: renewed worry about the size of the federal deficit and disappointing unemployment figures. With the signals from the incoming Clinton administration still confused, it is premature to draw firm policy conclusions, but the market response has at least Medium term bond yields UK gifts minus German bunds (%)

on a healthy bond market. The worry is that a weak recovery will force Mr Clinton to focus on fiscal pump priming rather than on deficit reduction. That would mean additional supply of Treasury bonds in a market already weighed down by a glut of corporate and supranational sues. Equities aiready look fully valued both in terms of a forward multiple of around 17 and a bond/dividend yield ratio of 2.6. Any increase in bond rates makes the forward multiple look expensive. Share prices have to adjust down even if earnings expectations

Robust economic recovery, of course, could cause the Fed to tighten. That would be a serious challenge for equities. But employment creation looks weak enough to delay such a move for several months. In any case it would take a large rate increase to enable money market funds to compete with equities again. Equities must hope for just enough recovery to keep the bond market happy.

#### French property

The comparison between the strains afflicting the French currency and property markets is inexact, but intriguing nonetheless. In both cases the French financial establishment has stepped in to prevent disorderly conduct. But while the franc last week seemed to have scraped through the worst, the property market is running into real strains.

Paris rental values have dropped 20 per cent from their peak. About 300,000 square metres of office space will come on to the market this year while vacancy rates are climbing. Some 6 per cent of office space remains unlet. In some areas, such as underlined how dependent equities are La Défense, it may be twice that level.

Some developers are already squeating. Last week saw another, Pierre Premier, hand over most of its portfolio to the banks. The latter have tried to underpin the market but bad debt provisions have mounted alarmingly. French banks are estimated to have FFr400bn (£48.6bn) exposure to the property sector. Nearly a quarter of that lending must now be classified as

But France's property troubles are not as bad as those that have beset the UK, US or Japan. High interest rates have choked off new development; over-supply is far less than in the UK: the underlying economy is strenger.

And the French financial community has shown itself more sophisticated in defending an orderly market. The French property crise is still painful enough for those involved, but it is not so dire as to dampen the economic benefits of lower interest rates when they finally come.

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#### Boots

Friday's trading statement from Boots has well and truly burst the euphoric bubble which had surrounded the stores sector. Weakness in the Do-It-All joint venture with WH Smith is perhaps not surprising. The chain is a weak third competitor in a market which has been riven by price wars and over-capacity. Perhaps the simplest solution would be for Do-it-All to withdraw. But markets rarely work so neatly and the optimism of both joint venturers bodes ill

WH Smith is likely to share in another of Boots' headaches. The Nintendo and Sega computer games craze has cannibalised many other areas of the childrens' present market this Christmas, with video and recorded music sales notably affected. The music business claims that the soggy trend in compact disc sales is due to a lack of new albums. But the expiry of singles and the high price of discs may be pricing the traditional teenage audience out of the market.

More generally, Boots' statement adds to the picture of a patchy Christmas. There was a late burst of spending for some retailers which carried over into the January sales. Yet strong January spending may not be a sign of retail health: it may only show that consumers held off before Christmas. The stores sector is at best sputtering into 1993 and it still has fully to face the challenge of rising import prices. Those retailers which source at home will have an edge this year.

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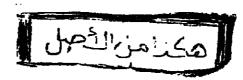
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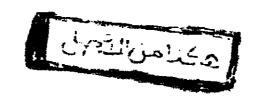
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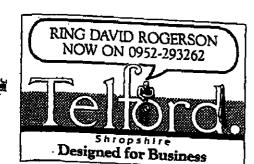






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#### **FINANCIAL TIMES** COMPANIES & MARKETS



IMI pic, Birmingham, England.

#### INSIDE

#### TWA hopes to meet deadline

Trans World Airlines, the bankrupt and heavilyindebted US carrier, hopes to produce a reorganisation plan before February 17 - the extension date for a reorganisation plan filing requested from the bankruptcy court. This will be the next step in the carrier's attempted revival following the departure of Mr Carl cann, who on Friday tormally resigned as chairman. Page 14

FNFC to make £50m cash call First National Finance Corporation, the consumer credit group, is expected to ask its shareholders for up to £50m (\$77m) in its first rights offering since 1986. Along with its annual results on Friday, FNFC is expected to announce that it will seek up to £50m through the sale of convertible preference shares in order to repair its balance sheet. Page 14

#### Legal tangle at Phar-mor

Phar-mor, the US discount drugstore operator, has seen a dramatic reversal of fortune. In August, it announced it was taking a \$350m charge against earnings — the result, it claimed, of alleged fraud and embezzlement which had led to overstated earnings and inflated stocks. A reading of the various lawsuits shows how difficult disentangling the truth may prove to be. Page 14

#### French defence pays off

Since early November, the Bank of France has done everything it can to defend its currency, from spending heavily from its reserves, to last Tuesday's announcement that it was temporarily replacing the five to 10-day rate with a one-day facility at the higher rate of 12 per cent. Its strategy seems to have worked. "The second battle for the franc is over and the French authorities have won," said Mr Didier Maillard, chief economist at Banque Paribas in Paris.

#### Hectic start for US bonds

US bond markets began the new year on a hectic note. Within five trading days, a moodswing had taken place. En route, near-record quantities of new corporate debt had been absorbed. On Thursday, \$4.75bn-worth of new paper hit the merket, bringing the new year's cumulative total to more than \$11bn. Page 16

#### Investors to quiz Rank

The possible sale of Rank Organisation's film interests is likely to dominate investors' questions when the leisure and entertainment group announces annual results on Thursday. Page 14

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#### OTHE FINANCIAL TIMES LIMITED 1993

Monday January 11 1993

# Hanson in gold swap to expand coal interests

#### By Kenneth Gooding, Mining Correspondent

HANSON, the UK conglomerate, is understood to have arranged to swap its gold mining operations in the US for the coal business of Santa Fe Pacific, the

railroads and minerals group.

The deal, estimated to involve assets worth \$500m on each side, would consolidate Hanson's position as the world's second-largest privately-owned coal producer and place Santa Fe among the top 10 North American gold producers. The companies' proposals are being

studied by the US Internal Revenue Sermines, Chimney Creek in Nevada, it would consider spinning off its miner in Newmont Mining which partly owned vice, because of the swap's tax-free standions. Santa Fe's Rabbit Creek mine also business. In 1990 the group spun off Peabody Coal, the second-largest US protus, the Securities and Exchange Commission and possibly the anti-trust authorities.

Hanson hopes to acquire Santa Fe's 720m tonnes of coal reserves and the Lee Ranch mine in New Mexico which produces about 4m tonnes a year and supplies two big electricity producers in the

south-west US. In return, Santa Fe, best known for its 132-year-old Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, would take Gold Fields Mining Corporation. One of GFMC's two

and together they would lend them-

selves to a "superpit" development. In the year to end-September, Chim-ney Creek and GFMC's Mesquite mine in California, together produced a record 431,000 troy ounces of gold and have proven reserves of 7.5m ounces. Cash production costs at the GFMC mines are among the lowest in the industry at \$108m an ounce.

Santa Fe owns three gold mines in Nevada, producing more than 300,000 ounces annually, and recently indicated

Specialty chemical operating margins (%)

its energy and property interests.

Hanson acquired GFMC in August 1989 when it took over Consolidated Gold Fields, the UK-based group, for \$3.5bn and the gold company has been up for sale since then. During the Gold Fields bid battle GFMC was valued at more than \$1.1bn. Industry sources suggest GFMC is now being valued at

Hanson's foray into US coal began with the Gold Fields acquisition. This also brought with it a 49 per cent stake

ducer. Hanson took full control of Peabody for \$715m early in 1990 and at the time Lord White, chairman of the group's US operations, suggested coal would continue to be an important long-term source of energy in the US and that new technologies would increase its efficiency as a low-cost

Coal is now Hanson's fastest-growing business and accounts for more than 30 per cent of the group's capital employed.

#### Paul Abrahams on the forays by bulk chemical groups into the speciality market

#### he arrival last week of Laporte, the UK's largest speciality chemical group, in the takeover battle for Evode, one its brethren, has cast an unaccustomed light on the speci-ality chemicals sector. During the mid-1980s speciality

chemicals groups became highly fashionable. In the previous recession, European and North American commodity groups had enviously eyed the performance

of speciality groups.

The concept behind speciality chemicals is quite simple, says Mr Ken Minton, Laporte chief executive. Whereas commodity chemicals are sold on price alone, specialities are sold for other considerations. The business differs from bulk chemicals because it is research-orientated, changing the product to meet the customer's

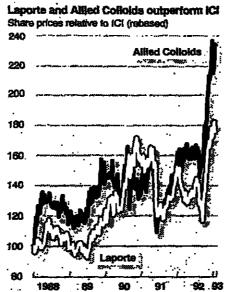
With the advantage of low capital investment, higher than average growth rates and profits, speciality groups appeared inoculated against economic downturns. Imperial Chemical Industries, the international chemicals group, created a specialities division after estimating that in Europe and the US, the average return (operating profits as a percentage of average total assets) of speciality operations fell from 20 per cent in 1980 to 13 per cent in 1983. Those of bulk businesses dropped from 10 per cent to 2 per cent over the same

The theory was that the European and North American commodity groups could acquire these speciality groups to offset the worst effects economic downturns. "Virtually without excep-tion, the commodities groups saw specialities as a panacea. During the mid-1980s, they launched themselves lemming-like into the sector," says Ms Hilfra Tandy, editor of Chemical Matters, an industry newsletter.

So much for the theory. During this recession, the reality has been rather different. Expectations among the large chemical groups that their speciality chemicals operations would balance the effects of cyclical commodity

#### An experiment to find a panacea for recession

#### Speciality chemical producers



1987 88 89 90 91 92° 92° 9.6 8.6 9.3 4.1 3.9 3.8 ict 10.9 13.3 14.3 15.6 14.0 14.2 Lacorte Allied Colloids 21.4 19.1 18.0 18.3 16.3 17.2

downturns have largely been dashed. While most small speciality groups have continued to prosper during the recession, the speciality divisions of most large chemicals combines have performed poorly, "To be frank, the specialities experiment has been a disaster," says Mr Stuart Wamsley, editor of Focus on Chemicals, an industry newsletter. Take, for example, the operat-

ing margins of ICI's speciality chemicals division which fell from 9.3 per cent in 1989 to an estimated 3.8 per cent last year. The division is expected to be in loss in the fourth quarter of 1992. Meanwhile, in France, Rhône-Poulenc's speciality division had operating margins of 5 per cent in 1989, was in loss the following year, and generated margins of only 0.6 per cent in 1991. Its

results are expected to have tural differences between comimproved during 1992. The poor results of the large groups compare with margins of 14 per cent last year at Laporte and 16.3 per cent at Allied Col-

loids, another UK speciality

Such comparisons are not

totally fair. Defining a speciality chemical business is not easy. What might be defined as a speciality by ICI, could be interpreted as a commodity chemical by Allied Colloids. Moreover, different speciality operations offer varying margins. However, it is true to say that speciality chemicals businesses have fared better

One the reasons for the relative failure of the large groups is their inability to appreciate the cul-

in small rather than large compa-

modity and speciality chemicals. "A speciality customer is prepared to pay more because the supplier has a monopoly, or has a better product, or his salesmanship is better. A bulk chemical manufacturer is obsessed by production - cutting costs to improve margins. But for special-ities, marketing becomes far

more important than production

chemistry," explains Mr Minton. The key to marketing is to produce small batches of products specifically designed for the customer. The effect, according to Mr Minton, is that the customer is prepared to pay a premium for the tailored product.

Mr Minton claims most large groups failed to understand this when they acquired their speciality groups. This reduced the spe-

#### ciality businesses' ability to react quickly to market demands. Mr Wamsley gives the example

of the respective polyacrylamide businesses of Dow, the US giant, and Allied Colloids. He says during the mid-1980s Allied Colloids was generating 20 per cent growth a year and enjoyed high margins while Dow, Allied's main competitor, was losing money. "Dow just couldn't compete. Allied was fast, flexible and customer-orientated. It was devising products for the customer. Dow had a range of products which it then sold. What's more it didn't provide the same levels of service," says Mr Wamsley.

he bulk companies were not discriminating when making acquisitions. "The bulk chemicals groups were so large that they had to acquire large numbers of these small niche companies to make any difference to their overall performance. In the rush to acquire, some businesses were not well understood - some were rash," says Mr Michael Bennett, director at consultants Arthur D Lit-

According to Mr Wamsley, some groups have decided the impact of specialities was negligible and could not justify the time, effort and costs involved in running them. For example, Union Carbide, the US giant, has disposed of most of its non-bulk activities. The proposed split of ICI into two groups, Zeneca with the pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals and specialities operations, and the rump keeping the bulk chemicals business, is part of the Not all believe the 1980s speci-

ality strategy was mistaken. Ms Jackie Ashurst, European chemicals analyst at broker James Capel, says investors and the companies themselves may have been too impatient, Building up speciality businesses requires research and development effort as well as time. Although they have not proved successful in this recession, non-bulk chemicals may well triumph during the next downturn.

#### Trafalgar House wins £100m US contract

By Andrew Baxter In London

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the construction, engineering and shipping group, has won a con-tract worth more than £100m (\$154m) to build a coking plant for Bethlehem Steel in the US.

The deal, won against stiff competition from US and German rivals, is the second biggest contract won by Trafalgar House since its takeover of Davy, the process plant contractor, in 1991. It comes five weeks after Trafalgar House reported a pretax loss of £30.3m for the year ended September 30 after exceptional property write-downs.

Trafalgar House, which holds its annual meeting today, has stressed the benefits of acquiring a new "leg" through Davy's metals and minerals plant contracting expertise.

Early last year, it won a £140m contract for an aluminium strip plant in Egypt. The latest deal, won by Davy International, is a turnkey contract to rebuild Bethlehem's number two coke oven battery at its Burns Harbor, Indi-

Mr Ian Robinson, chairman of Trafalgar House engineering division, said Bethlehem's investment showed its commitment to maintain its position as one of the leading integrated steel producers in the US.

The outlook for steel plant contractors in the US was beginning to improve after a period where clients had been cutting back or delaying investments, he said.

The plant is due for completion in early 1995, and will comply with the 1991 US Clean Air Act. Coking, where coal is turned into metallurgical coke for use in the blast furnace, is one of the most environmentally sensitive stages of the steelmaking process.

#### The burden of Germany's reserve currency status

many recovered its economic and financial strength, the Bundesbank withstood use of the D-Mark as a reserve currency.

The monetary conservatives at the Bundesbank's helm

believed an overhang of foreign-held D-Marks would be a dangerous burden, liable to depress the currency at times of political or economic ten-

The aversion of people like Mr Otmar Emminger, Bundes-bank president in 1977-79, was

#### **Economics** Notebook

By David Marsh

strengthened by observation of the painful dismantling of sterling's reserve currency role in the 1960s and 1970s. Then at the beginning of the 1980s Germans discovered that widespread reserve use of the D-Mark was impossible to pre-

vent and could bring benefits. The D-Mark's international status grew during the 1980s in line with its fundamental strength. Now German economic performance is being dented by the effects of reunifi-

Germany's inflation rate is the sixth highest of Europe's 18 industrialised economies. Its current account has tipped into the red and the deficit is expected to persist, at least into 1994.

As a result of the deterioration in parts of the German economy, some of the disadvantages of reserve currency

uring the post-war status feared by Mr Emminger decades, as West Ger- are coming to the fore.

Nervousness about whether foreign D-Mark investors will maintain their holdings provide one reason why the D-Mark may be relatively weak in coming months.
The D-Mark has fallen

against the dollar since Governor Bill Clinton's US election victory in November. This reflected foreign exchanges' belief that Mr Clinton will preside over a US recovery. The D-Mark/dollar move repeats the pattern of the previous two US presidential elections (see chart). This time the effect could be more permanent.

Much attention focused last week on the Bundesbank's cut in interest rates, when it lowered its money market rate by just 0.15 percentage points. The Bundesbank's decision to leave discount and Lombard rates unchanged was primarily due to concern about inflationary pressures caused by the German budget deficit.

But the Bundesbank's caution may also reflect worries that faster credit easing would expose the D-Mark to greater risk of further decline against the dollar.

Up to now, the D-Mark's international status has been a source of strength. According to the Bundesbank's figures for end-1991, official D-Mark assets amount to about DM280bn (\$141bn), 18 per cent of world currency reserves. Foreigners' holdings of the German currency are well over DM1,000bn. Since unification in October 1990, the D-Mark's reserve cur-

rency status has proved a con-

siderable benefit. Germany has

claimed the traditional reserve

UK Nov Switzerland Nov Germany Dec Austria Nov

**European inflation rates** 

**Pollar after three US elections** 



currency privilege: it has paid its bills in its own currency. without repercussions on the exchange rate.

At the end of last year, Mr Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank president, acknowledged the advantages of the D-Mark's international use. But he also made clear that, given the volume of D-Marks held abroad, Germany would face risks if foreigners ever feared that Germany was departing from sound money principles.

The scale of these potential pitfalls is illustrated by Bundesbank figures for Germany's overall foreign assets and liabilities. Germany expanded its net foreign assets from

onset of current account deficits reduced the net asset position by DM54bn during the 12 months to June 1992.

Overall, Germany's international financial position remains strong. But it will be undermined unless Germany reverses the swing to current account deficit. And this might make foreign D-Mark investors prone to sell their holdings. Mr Schlesinger has not for-

gotten the forebodings of Mr

Emminger, in coming months, Mr Schlesinger will not make much explicit reference to the holders of the DM1,000bn worth of D-Mark assets abroad. But they will be at the forefront of his mind. And he will do his best to ensure they do DM373bn at end-1968 to a peak do his best to ensure they do not move back into the dollar.

#### Total to sell Canadian subsidiary for C\$180m

By Bernard Simon in Toronto

TOTAL, the French energy group, is withdrawing from Canada as part of moves to national operations.

Total will receive about C\$180m (US\$141m) from the sale of its 53 per cent stake in Total Canada Oil and Gas of Calgary. It has sold its 18.8m shares to an underwriting syndicate led by Nesbitt Thomson a Canadian broking company, for C\$9.75 a share. The shares are expected to be widely distributed.

Total is concentrating its international efforts on oil and gas properties in Colombia and Indonesia. and has recently been granted concessions in Burma and Algeria. Total will make a profit from the sale of its Canadian

subsidiary, w<u>hi</u>ch was spun off from Colorado-based Total Petroleum North America in mid-1991 at C\$5.75 a share. Total Canada's business centres on exploration and crude oil and gas production, while Total Petroleum's focus is downstream refining and dis-

tribution. The Canadian com-

pany's investment rating has

benefited from exploration

Total Canada earned C\$6.1m in the first nine months of last year on net revenues of C\$57.7m. Crude oil and condensate production averaged 6,781 barrels a day, while natural gas sales averaged 62.9m cubic feet a day.

Other international energy groups, including BP of Britain, have reduced their exposure in Canada in the past



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NATWEST CAPITAL MARKETS

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Troubled group will move to repair balance sheet | Rank faces

#### FNFC to make £50m cash call this week

By Norma Cohen,

TROUBLED First National Finance Corporation, the consumer credit group, is expected to ask its shareholders for up to £50m in its first rights offering since 1986.

Along with its annual results on Friday, FNFC is expected to announce that it will seek up to £50m through the sale of convertible preference shares in order to repair its balance

In the six months to last April, the group had total charges for bad debts of £64.5m, and incurred a net loss

took an exceptional charge of £17m related to the sale of undeveloped property sites.

The group, whose short term

borrowings rose significantly in 1991, also faces the repayment of some £250m in bank loans this spring.

However, the loss for the second half is expected to shrink significantly to under £10m. Profitability has been aided by the sharp drop in base rates in recent months and the fact that its loan agreements do not require it to pass on all of those savings to customers. Also, it has pared roughly

£400m from the group balance

sheet through securitisation

and sale of loans. In October,

The company has said that most of its troubled loans stemmed from aggressive business it took on in the late 1980's which has been largely repaid or written off. About half of all new business is in the form of home improvement

mortgage loans.

loans and about a third are secondary mortgages The company's share price has risen steadily, rising from a 1992 low of 13p to 60p on

FNFC raised £190m when it

became the first issuer to sell securities backed by secondary

Its loan book at the end of December was £900m, down

from £1.3bn the year before.

#### questions over film interests

By Peggy Hollinger and Ray Snoddy

THE possible sale of Rank Organisation's film interests is likely to dominate investors questions when the leisure and group entertainment announces annual results on

Analysts are expecting the heavily indebted company to report pre-tax profits of between £233m and £245m, against £254m last time. Rank refused to comment on

weekend speculation of an offer from a consortium involving Mr Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4. It is understood that no formal approach has been made, while Mr Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive, has stressed the business has not actively been put up for

However, Mr Grade has confirmed that he is in contact with an unnamed bidder for Rank's film business. The potential bidder, believed to be a consortium of investors, is being advised by Chemical Bank. Mr Grade has said he would be prepared to be a nonexecutive director of the Rank Organisation's film and cin-

ema business if it is sold. Rank is in the process of trying to reduce its almost £1bn debt through disposals of assets such as hotels. To date, it has sold just four of the 22 hotels earmarked for disposal, raising about £88m. In December 1991 Rank sold its motorway services arm for £90m. The debt was largely the result of the Mecca takeover in 1990.

The film interests, which include the Odeon cinema edly based on a deep-discount operation in Cleveland which chain and Pinetree Studios, are believed not to be considthey had visited together. ered core assets. Phar-Mor quickly won a rep-

Reversal of fortune at Phar-Mor, Nikki Tait on the web of litigation around the US discount drugstore utation for striking hard bar-

HE holiday tinsel has been stashed away and many remnants of the gains with suppliers, and seemed to prosper. Within a old year consigned to the rub-bish-bin. But some of 1992's decade, annual sales had risen to \$3bn, and the chain had grown to more than 300 debris will take longer to bury. The scandal at Phar-Mor, one On the back of such prosperof the more colourful US busiity, Mr Monus - whose lawness stories in 1992, is a case in yers did not return calls -gave full rein to his private point. Last August, this "deep discount" drugstore operator interests. He became the owner announced it was taking a "Youngstown Pride", a

\$350m charge against earnings the result, it claimed, of an World Basketball League" franchise operating as a sec alleged fraud and embezzleond-tier, professional organisament scheme which had led to tion for players under 6ft 7in overstated earnings and inflated stocks. Within weeks, tall. He also planned to become a big investor in the Colorado the Ohio-based retailer plunged from fast track to bankruptcy. Rockies, one of baseball's two Not surprisingly, the sudde expansion franchises which reversal of fortune created a start playing this year. Ironically, it was the sports ties which became the catalyst trail of litigation and losses. Even now, as legal processes

start grinding, some big names of Phar-Mor's downfall - at least according to a lawsuit filed by Coopers & Lybrand, including Coopers & Lybrand, the accountancy firm, Lazard Freres' Corporate Phar-Mor's accountants. It Partners investment operation claims to have first learnt of and National Westminster the alleged improprieties when Bank of the UK - are still asked to investigate "certain totting up the damage. cheques paid to a travel agent At the centre of the Pharby Strouss Building Associates, Mor debacle is Mr Michael a Phar-Mor related partner-

Monus, a businessman in his

Savoy MD

talk of fresh

tor in any takeover battle.

"What has been said does

Mr Shepard said yesterday, in

response to to reports that a

trustee of the Swiss-based Fon-

dation Pour la Formation Hotelière, which controls 5.7

per cent of the Savoy's voting

shares, had insisted decisions

made by the trust could not be

based on loyalties and per-

dismisses

40s whose family has run retail the World Basketball League". interests from Youngstown, a This probe, the suit continues, eventually revealed that depressed former steel town, millions of dollars had been for years. Mr Monus is, by all accounts, something of a local diverted from Phar-Mor into character, aside from co-foun-ding Phar-Mor, his notoriety the league. C&L also says that it was told by one of Phar-Mor's accountants of "hidden stems from a burgeoning sports empire, a messy divorce,

ship, for expenses incurred by

and a "fast lane" life-style. Inevitably, how the alleged Phar-Mor was born in the early-1980s after Giant Eagle, a scam worked, and who was responsible for it, is a matter of Pittsburgh-based grocery intense legal dispute. Pharchain, bought out the Monus Mor, which filed for Chapter 11 family grocery business, and bankruptcy protection within contacts between Mr Monus weeks of the \$350m write-off and Mr David Shapira, head of announcement, has sued C&L Giant Eagle, prompted them to for negligence. In turn, C&L has sued Mr Shapira, Mr go into business together. The Phar-Mor strategy was report-Monus, and various other employees of Phar-Mor and its related companies. Mr Monus and Mr Patrick Finn, Phar-Mor's chief financial officer

were fired almost immediately. and Mr Monus has since filed

for personal bankruptcy. That is only the beginning. According to one lawyer involved in the affair, there are More than a dozen lawsuits outstanding. These include a class action filed by the unquoted retailer's shareholders, and about five actions against NatWest and its County NatWest Securities arm in the US, which handled a private placement of Phar-Mor shares

Among the plaintiffs are two big mutual fund operators -T. Rowe Price and Massachu-setts Financial Services which allege NatWest/County misled investors about Phar-Mor's financial condition.

The various lawsuits make clear how difficult untangling the truth may prove to be. The Phar-Mor suit, for instance, blames Mr Monus, with collusion from Mr Finn, and sug-gests that C&L - which issued clean audit reports in 1989, 1990 and 1991 - was negligent in uncovering sizeable accounting irregularities. C&L's own suit is more

detailed. As background, it claims that Mr Shapira and Mr Monus ran Phar-Mor "as a personal fiefdom". They were involved, for example, in a number of joint ventures or partnerships which leased stores, store fixtures and equipment to Phar-Mor. Various professional or supplier companies run by their rela-

tives also worked for Phar-Mor. As to the alleged overstatements of the company's financial position, C&L maintains that it uncovered evidence of stock shortages during the 1988 audit. This, it claimed, was the result of "short" shipments from a Giant Eagle distribution subsidiary. However, a promised improvement in stock control methods was then delayed for a variety of reasons -

including, for example, the employment of outside consultants to assess the situation The suit also notes that Mr Monus and Mr Shapira called in reputable inventory count

tants to count stocks at every store twice a year, on a rota-ting basis. The consultants' reports showed no problems. And the C&L suit claims that stock levels were fictitiously inflated at each of the stores, except those which C&L itself was testing.

hatever the truth of the claims and coun. ter-claims, there is no doubt that some prestigious players in the financial community have had their fingers badly burnt. Phar-Mor was never quoted, but did place shares privately.

In June 1991, for example. Corporate Partners - the investment partnership run by Lazard Frères - put \$200m into Phar-Mor, in return for a 17 per cent equity stake Westinghouse Electric Corporation was another victim, taking a \$100m write-off on its Phar-Mor investment last October. So were the mutual fund investors, and so - indirectly - was NatWest/County, which claims that the allegations against it are "completely without merit".

Are there any lessons to be learnt from the affair? The legal processes are only just getting under way, but Phar-Mor may again focus attention on how audits are conducted. Secondly, the willingness of investors to pour money into a discount retailer may indicate a general eagerness to unearth a second Wal-Mart - the Arkansas-based company which grew from one "five and dime" store to become the nation's largest retailer, making a lot of shareholders very rich. The story, alas, is rather

#### Nestlé Merseyside package

By Peggy Hollinger

DETAILS HAVE emerged of the offer by Nestlé, the Swiss foods conglomerate, to assist in the formation of an ice-cream company to be owned by former Clarke Foods employees in Kirkby, Mersevside.

Nestlé confirmed that it had offered production equipment and storage facilities worth about £500,000 to get former employees at the Kirkby factory started in an own-label ice lolly manufacturing business. The foods group will also con-tribute to overheads such as security and electricity until the end of February.

One of the workers said the equipment offered by Nestlé was not "state of the art" although it was in good running order.

At its peak, the Kirkby facucing up to 40,000 ice lollies an

**BRITISH Petroleum already** 

appears to be more than half

way to achieving its 1993 target

of raising \$1.5bn (£1bn)

through sales of non-core

The UK oil company is

believed to have reaped \$1.7bn

from similar disposals in 1992,

slightly ahead of its target for

to reduce the group's borrow-

ings of around \$16bn. Gearing

to be over 90 per cent. BP cut

its dividend last year and

announced it would shed

20,500 jobs around the world by 1995 in a drive to

The group has received

indicative bids in the region of

£200m-£250m for its consumer

products division, of which the

main part is the Manchester-

estments Correspondent

GROUPE GAN, the French-

based insurance and banking

company, will today launch a

new direct insurance service

The new company, to be

called Touchline, is part of a growing push into the so-called

direct line insurance business

which allows consumers to

bypass broker intermediaries

by contacting the insurer

The French company's move

follows on the success of Bank

of Scotland's Direct Line sub-

sidiary which pioneered tele-

phone selling of personal insur-

business, such as motor and

household insurance, now

accounts for around 10 per cent

Direct selling of personal

ance in 1985.

French group launches

direct insurance in the UK

at the 1992 year end is expected

The cash raised will be used

By Antonia Sharpe

last year of \$1.5bn.

reduce costs.

By Norma Cohen,

into the UK market.

\$1.5bn disposal target

hour. The equipment left by Nestlé would allow output of 25,000 per hour, he said. The proposed venture had

already received "significant interest" in the placing an order from one of the site's former customers, a leading supermarket chain.

Nestle acquired the equipment when it bought most of Clarke Foods' assets following the company's collapse in October last year. The 67 employees at the Kirkby site, made redundant by the receiver before Nestlé moved in, had staged a sit-in at the factory during December in an attempt to persuade the conglomerate to keep the factory

The deal is contingent on the completion of a business plan and the arrangement of financing for the proposed venture. towards the costs of devising

based Robert McBride. The

the business plan, with the hall ance likely to be paid by the Department of Trade and Industry. The representative of the

Kirkby employees said some form of Employee Share Ownership Plan was being disssed to arrange initial financing for the new business. Meetings had been set up with financial institutions this week to discuss working capital finance. The venture is also receiving significant support from the Knowsley council, which owns the freehold on the site and has set up similar employee co-operatives.

Mr Brian Revell, of the Transport and General Workers Union, welcomed the offer from Nestle: "They are taking account of their social obligations to the workers in Kirkby, which is one of the worst unemployment black spots in the country."

#### BP looks set to achieve Aberdeen Petroleum faces an uphill struggle

By Peggy Hollinger

division, which has annual sales of around £300m, is part ABERDEEN Petroleum, the US-based oil and gas company, of BP Nutrition which BP put on the block last year. faces an uphill struggle in SG Warburg is compiling a shortlist of bidders, believed to its attempt at a friendly merger with Brabant Resources, the North Sea include several financial instiexploration group. tutions. However, completion shareholders of this transaction is still a Large

expressed scepticism last week couple of months away. The first sale to be com-pleted this year is likely to be over the approach by Aberdeen. "At the moment we have that of BP's consumer food not got a firm proposal," said one shareholder. "We have only got an idea." group to Sara Lee, the US textiles, food and consumer prodrdeen admitted

company, for about £70m This disposal is expected to be followed by the completion of the \$456m sale of BP's 49 per cent holding in the Olympic Dam mine in southern Australia to Minorco, the overseas investment arm of the Anglo American Corporation-De Beers group of South Africa. Both of these deals were agreed last November.

Some 15 per cent of motor

insurance alone is controlled

by the direct writers - a third

of that is Direct Line - and

insurance industry analysts

expect that to rise to 25 to 30

per cent of the motor insur-

ance market by the end of the

Groupe Gan said its new sub-

sidiary would concentrate on

selling motor insurance and in

the near future would intro-

duce household and other per-

second major European insurer

to break into the UK's direct insurance market in the past

The company becomes the

sonal insurance lines.

insurance business.

decade.

Brabant have declined from a high of 160p in its first few

weeks of quotation. They each Forte bid had a market value of less than £5m last week. Although .. there\_is, wide-By Peggy Hollinger In London

spread sympathy for consolidation of the vast number of oil MR GILES Shepard, managing and gas stocks which are too director of The Savoy Hotel, vesterday dismissed speculasmall to raise any useful finance, investors said they tion of a renewed bid from the would prefer to see a merger of Forte group following reports more similar companies. that his board could not rely on the support of a key inves-

One investor said: "It would be more sensible to have the merger of companies operating added: "There is a case for companies to start getting together and . . . it pays to do it at the beginning rather than at the end."

Other investors said they were not averse to a merger for Brabant, although they would prefer it to be with another exploration company.

Aberdeen, which itself has been the subject of takeover speculation, rejected the criti-cisms of its choice for merger.

securing medium term financ-

ing prior to announcing the

They warned that the

preliminary figures.

tant" future.

sonal friendships". "A trustee has to say he will do what is in the best interests of the trust," Mr Shepard said. In 1989, Forte – which holds 42.5 per cent of the

Savoy votes - agreed not to buy Savoy shares for five years and promised to give a year's notice of any bid, in return for a seat on the board. However, recent events may encourage Forte, which attempted to take over the hotel in 1981, to rethink its contract. The death of the Savoy's chairman, Sir Hugh Wontner, in November was fol-

group's future prospects were dependent on the outcome of the talks but remained hopeful that agreement would be reached in the "not too dis-The results for the year were lowed by the collapse of St prepared on a going concern Anselm, the property company, which owned 4.29 per basis and accordingly, the auditors' report carries an cent of Savoy voting shares. appropriate qualification. These are now with receivers Union Square's shares are traded on the USM. Its ulti-Cork Gully, and could be up for sale. mate holding company is Thompson Investments.

#### Cockerill sees steel side loss THE steel-making activities of

Cockerill Sambre, the Belgian steel-based group, are likely to make a loss in 1993, said Mr Jean Gandois, chairman, writes Andrew Hill.
Mr Gandois said the reces-

sion had deepened since October, but the company's cash reserves meant it was wellplaced to resist the downturn. | up for approval in late Janu-

#### IBM boosts management team expected at the end of next

By Louise Kehoe in San Francisco

INTERNATIONAL Business Machines, the troubled US computer maker, has moved to strengthen its management by appointing three extra members to its main executive committee. This brings to six the number of executives in the group's top management team, which reports directly to IBM's board, and provides more direct representation for several of its business units.

Joining the committee are Mr Robert LaBant, Mr Ned Toole. The existing members are Mr John Akers, chairman and chief executive, Mr Jack Kuebler, president, and Mr Frank Metz, chief financial offi-

cer, on the committee The expansion of the com-

Patrick Toole: joins main

executive committee

broad restructuring of IBM's operations. The appointments also fuel speculation as to who may succeed Mr Akers as

year. Mr LaBant is among the favourites for the top job, according to IBM insiders. Mr LaBant is a senior vice-president and general manager of IBM North America. Mr Toole, also an IBM

senior vice-president, is in charge of manufacturing and development. Mr Toole oversees IBM's mainframe computer, data storage, networking, printer and software operations.

Mr Lautenbach, IBM senior vice-president will take on a newly-created role as the conquarters for IBM World Trade, the company's international marketing and sales operations. He was formerly president of IBM Asia Pacific. He has been replaced in that post by Mr Robert Stephenson. also an IBM vice-president.

#### TWA hopes to meet deadline

mittee is the latest move in a chairman, if he retires as

By Nikki Talt in New York TRANS World Airlines, the

bankrupt and heavily-indebted US carrier, hopes to be able to produce a reorganisation plan before February 17 - the extension date for a reorgani-sation plan filing requested from the bankruptcy court.

This will be the next step in the carrier's attempted revival, following the departure on Fri-day of Mr Carl Icahn, the onetime corporate raider who gained control of TWA in 1986. Mr Icahn agreed to relinquish all interest and control in the airline last year, as part of a complex pact between

TWA's unions, creditors and the federal agency which ultimately underpins the airline's underfunded pension plans. On Friday, he formally resigned as chairman, placing his stock in escrow. Remaining members of TWA's board four people, including Mr

lcahn - also resigned.

Under the envisaged reorganisation plan, creditors will hold 55 per cent of the restructured airline's shares and labour representatives, the remaining 45 per cent. Until that plan is approved by the bankruptcy court, ultimate responsibility for running the airline rests with a two-man mangement committee, appointed by unions and creditors, but a new board will be formed after reorganisation.

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Has Exc

Although Mr Icahn took large share stakes in many companies during the 1980s, TWA is one of the few that he ended up owning. He more than recouped the cost of his TWA share stake purchase when he conducted a leveraged buy-out of the airline, with financing from Drexel Burnham Lambert. However, the heavy debt burden assumed by the carrier, coupled with the tough airline industry climate, has caused TWA to make large losses throughout the 1990s.

#### Renault plans stake in Czech bus group

RENAULT, the French stateowned vehicle group, plans to take a 34 per cent stake in Karosa, the biggest Czech bus maker, Reuter reports from Prague.

Mr Miroslav Hauser, a Karosa executive said: "Renault is very much interested and we have jointly prepared a privatisation project which is

ary." Mr Pavel Stejskal, head of the Czech privatisation ministry's general engineering division, said approval would pave the way for a joint ven-ture with Karosa's main plant in Vysoke Myto. Renault has agreed to pay

Kcs231m (\$8.25m) within 30 days of a contract being signed and is willing to invest a further \$8.25m within three years

to acquire a majority stake. Before the fall of communism in 1989, Karosa was Czechoslovakia's sole large bus and coach manufacturer. Renault and Volvo. the Swedish vehicle maker, are to expand co-operation in the German car market to maximise advantages of the alliance between the two groups, Reu-ter adds from Bonn.

#### ASC reviews Fletcher insider probe result

By Kevin Brown in Sydney

THE Australian Securities Commission (ASC), the federal corporate watchdog, is considering the results of an insider trading inquiry into Fletcher Challenge, the New Zealand

conglomerate.
The investigation follows volatility in Fletcher's share price between June and December, which coincided with the disposal of more than NZ\$1bn (US\$510m) of assets. The investigation was initi-

ated by the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) and carried out in conjunction with the New Zealand Stock Exchange and the corporate regulatory authorities in Wellington.

The ASX said the report was "routine" result of its normal monitoring of share price

movements.
Fletcher Challenge said it was confident no breaches of securities legislation had occurred. All asset disposals had been widely publicised in advance, and the market had

been kept informed. Fletcher put a large number of assets up for sale in mid-year after its shares came under selling pressure, mainly because of inves-tors' concerns about its opera-tional performance and high level of debt. Asset disposals included the

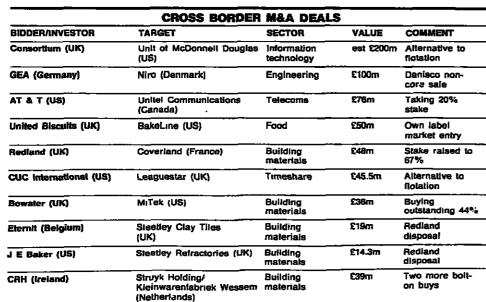
Rural Bank, sold to the National Bank of New Zealand for NZ\$450m, and a stake in the NZ Natural Gas Corpora-tion, sold for NZ\$305m. Pletcher shares fell to a record low of A\$1.24 in Sydney

to A\$1.68 on November 30, one day after news of the Rural Bank sale. In October, Mr Hugh

on November 20, but recovered

Fletcher, managing director, suggested the low share price could lead to a takeover. "I would not be surprised if some corporate started buying the company; there are billions to be made in buying Fletcher Challenge at this level."

Fletcher said it had no plans to set up an internal inquiry



#### peak of 34p, while the shares of **NEWS DIGEST Union Square** cuts losses to £483,000

had not yet presented any

terms or conditions of any

potential merger. It is likely,

however, that any offer would

be made purely with shares.

On Friday, Aberdeen's shares

closed steady at 8½p while

Both companies have proved

disappointing for investors

since coming to the USM in the

late 1980s. Aberdeen's share

price has fallen from an early

Brabant's were firm at 27p.

UNION SQUARE, which has disposed of a significant part of its property portfolio in order to reduce deht, cut its losses from £10.48m to £483,000 pretax for the year to end-March

Net interest charges fell to £1.33m (£4.41m) and excep-tional provisions were cut to £315,000 (£5.22m). However, extraordinary charges rose to £4.98m (£3.78m). Losses per share worked through 0.43p

The directors said it had not Most recently, Swiss-based been possible to conclude dis-cussions with the company's Winterthur, through its UK subsidiary. Churchill, announced its own direct main bankers with a view to renewing existing facilities and

assets at year-end of £173m rep-resented growth of 10 per cent. The society lent some £25m in "exceedingly difficult" mar-ket conditions. It also improved its capital base in terms of both reserves and gross capital. **Increased deficit** at Torex Hire

**Universal Building** 

Universal Building Society, based in Newcastle, achieved a

1992 net profits to £1.25m while

per cent improvement in

Society improves

Losses at Torex Hire, the USM-quoted group with interests in the hire of tools, small plant and catering equipment, rose from £216,000 to £335,000 for the year to end-October. The second half deficit of £45,000 (profits £12,000) was

struck after taking account of redundancy costs of £47,000. Full year turnover was static at £4.21m (£4.42m). The dividend for the year is

maintained at 0.4p. Losses per

share emerged at 2.09p (1.16p),



INTERNATIONAL BONDS

#### INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

# Safe-haven status gives early boost to Eurosterling

THE Eurosterling bond market had an active start to 1993 with a total of teather paiced by the start to 1993 with a total of the start to 1993 with a European Investment Bank and the Kingdom of Sweden. Sterling's unlikely elevation to the status of safe haven currency made it attractive in a week otherwise dominated by the D-Mark and Swiss franc among European currencies. Neither of last week's issues

nent team

deadline

ech bus grou

CANADIAN DOLLARS

Crédit Local de France

General Electric Cap.Corp.

Electricité de France

however, and the pace of borrowing may not be sustained. The EIB's £400m issue, which with a 1014-year maturity is a

rarity at a time of a steep yield curve, was attacked for being too tightly priced. And Sweden, which reopened

icised for offering a higher spread on the latest tranche, upsetting holders of the existing paper.

The use of Eurosterling in the coming months is likely to be heavily influenced by two factors: the UK government's huge gilts issuing programme, and whether arbitrage opportuwent down well with investors, nities in the swap market return,

> Bankers report demand for maturities around the 10-year area. However, there seems little chance of substantial new borrowing while swap spreads

remain tight. Swap spreads are expected if and a preference by UK corporates to stay in floating sterling, taking advantage of historically low rates at the very short end of the curve.

The best swap opportunities are thought likely to remain at five years, the maturity of the Swedish issue. Even without an improvement in the swap market, Japanese utilities are expected to be other heavy users of the currency as an alternative to domestic yen.

The recent rally in the stock market means that the predictions late last year of heavy issuing by UK corporates are unlikely to be fulfilled. "We

Paribas Can Mids.

Swiss Bank Corp.

101.1875

101.155

corporates to look at the equity market rather than bonds," said Mr Charlie Hanbury-Williams of Samuel Montagu.

The gilts programme is expected to absorb the total cash flow of UK institutions this year, and the need to attract foreign investors could push yields to the point where corporate borrowers opt to tap other markets instead. "International demand will

be the key," says Mr Simon Best of Baring Brothers, "and that hinges on confidence in the currency."

Meanwhile, news last week that holders of the £135m

London & Provincial were to of L&P are unlikely to be be offered 95 per cent of their money in an early repayment prompted a strong rally among other debenture issues.

The possibility of a London & Provincial default had hung over the market for some months, and Citibank's agreement to provide the cash to pay off the bond holders was well received - even though it was the "lirst time in living memory" that a debenture issue would be repaid at less than par, said Mr Hugh Corbett of UBS Phillips & Drew. Although virtually untraded,

the bonds had been quoted at

The particular circumstances repeated in other cases. But the likelihood of bond holders reinvesting their money in other secured issues helped to drive yields generally lower.

The yield on debentures issued by Peel Holdings. among the highest-yielding secured stocks, narrowed during the week from 289 basis points over gilts to 246 basis points. Yield spreads on longerdated loan stocks also narrowed by around 20 basis points.

> Brian Bollen and Richard Waters

RISK AND REWARD

# Recovery hopes spur launch of new derivatives



the UK economy finally picks itself up off the floor? That question helped to stimulate the launch of two

last week. The early signs suggest, though, that it will take time for these products to make themselves as familiar a part of the investment landscape as, say, the futures contract on the FT-SE 100 index.

Last week's instruments. from Smith New Court and Warburg Securities, are based on the FT-SE Mid 250 index, which comprises the tier of companies just below the top 100. These companies will outperform larger ones as the economy recovers, the theory runs: they derive a far higher proportion of their profits from

Sterling's exit from the exchange rate mechanism, and the belief that the lower interest rates that followed would rekindle economic growth in the UK, has brought outperformance from Mid 250 stocks.

On October 12 last year, when it was launched, the new index stood at 2,403.0, 155.9 points below the FT-SE 100. By the end of last week it had risen to above 2,900, 133 points up on the index of larger companies.

The big question for the derivatives providers, though, is how many investors are actively following the Mid 250. Any which have reorganised their investments to match the indices would find index-based derivatives a natural way to make rapid changes to their asset allocations, without needing to buy or sell the lessliquid second-tier stocks.

Early institutional reaction seems positive, though it is difficult to find institutions that plan to trade Mid 250 futures. Will Smith's contract eventually be superseded by a similar

product on the London Interna tional Financial Futures and Options Exchange? The idea is at the top of Liffe's agenda, though there are no immediate plans to create a new contract. Together with the London Stock Exchange, Liffe is examining the use of the Mid 250 among investors to assess likely demand, an exercise that seems likely to continue for

some time. Even if the Mid 250 is taken up, it could be unsuited to an exchange-traded future. Few securities houses trade enough stocks in the index to allow them to trade between the futures and cash markets. Smith reckons it is the only one to trade all 250 though Warburg's 244 stocks give it a close enough replication of the index.

Also, locals are unlikely to he attracted to the contract unless they think it will generate enough liquidity to allow them to trade in and out with ease. It could therefore prove difficult to build enough liquidity to make the contract a

Warburg, meanwhile, last week produced an exchangetraded derivative based on the Mid 250 in an attempt to appeal to those investors prevented by their trust deeds from dealing in off-exchange instruments.

The spate of innovation in UK equity derivatives has not been limited to the Mid 250. Smith also launched futures on five sector indices last week. including banks, oils and water companies. OTC derivatives based on particular sectors have been used in the past, though only as one-off exer-

Salomon, for instance, successfully promoted a series of call warrants based on water stocks ahead of the UK general election last year, playing on the politically sensitive nature of the stocks. In the end, water companies outperformed the FT-A All-Share index by 33 per

Richard Waters

#### Av. lile Borrowers Book runner ITALIAN LIRA US DOLLARS European Investment Bank 200bn Feb.2000 12.369 12.75 101.72 Mi Bank Luxembourg Alto Paranalal + Chartered WestL6 UBS P&D Secs. Republic of Austria(d)‡ Credit Local de France(e)‡ (d) (e) 6.125 Jan.2003 GUILDERS Goldman Sechs Int. Daiwa/MSI/UBS P&D Kidder, Peabody Int. Morgan Stanley Int. Lehman Brothers Bk Outch Municipe Council of Europe(f) Lbk Hessen-Thuringe SBC Nederland 400 400 97.29 99.5 99.626 Oct. 1999 6.634 Lik Hessan-Thüringen(g): Swedish Export Credit(h): Pennzoll Co.(i): Toyota Motor Credit Corp. De NiB Feb.2003 ABN Amro Holdings Jan.2003 Nov.2002 Aegon(z)‡ Jan.2003 AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS Jan.1996 Jan.2003 101.1275 CSFB 4.961 European Inv.Bank(j)‡ LKB(k)‡ Intelsat Australian Ind.Dev.Corp. 125 50 150 Hambros Bank Hambros Bank Feb.2003 100.65 Kidder, Peabody Int. Ford Credit Australia State Bk.New South Wales Feb.2003 Jan.2000 Jan.2003 9.219 6.592 Merrill Lynch Int. Merrill Lynch Int. UBS P&D Secs. 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**NEW INTERNATIONAL BOND ISSUES** 

#### STEPHEN ROSE AND PARTNERS

Feb.1996

Feb.1998

Feb. 1998

200

THE SECOND EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONAL

CONFERENCE

# INVESTMENT BRAZIL

The Chairman, Industrias Villares SA The Chairman, Brasmotor SA The Finance Director, Telebras SA The President, Usiminas SA The Chief Executive Officer, Mesbla SA

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PAULO ROBERTO HADDAD HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MARCILIO MARQUES MOREIRA MR. BOLIVAR LAMOUNIER

The conference which will be jointly

sponsored by **BANCO BOZANO SIMONSEN** 

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RATE NOTES DUE JULY 1997 Notice is hereby given that for the interest period from 8th January 1993 to 8th July 1993, the rate of interest will be 4.9% per sonom. The interest payable on the 8th July 1993 will be Yen 242,986 per each Yen 10,000,000, Note, Agent Bank: The Mitsui Trust and Banking Co., Ltd., London

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YEN 30,000,000. FLOATING

**UK GILTS** 

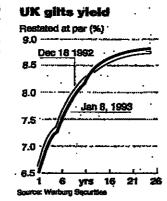
#### Little interest in long-maturing securities

DEMAND for short-dated gilts picked up slightly while inves-tors showed little interest in long-maturing securities, as the gilt market reacted to indications of lower short-term

interest rates across Europe.
The healthier tone to sterling also underpinned prices for short-dated gilts, while funding worries pushed up yields at the longer end of the yield curve.

With the market slow to pick up after the new year break, last week saw relatively little price movement. Yields for gilts maturing at 10 years or less (ell by about 10 basis points compared with the week before Christmas, while over the same period, yields at the longer end of the spectrum rose by a similar amount.

One of the biggest influences on the market was the decision by the Bundesbank council to ease its short-term money marby speculation that it would soon cut its internationally important Lombard and dis-



action in cutting its so-called "repo" rate to 8.6 per cent from recent levels of 8.75 per cent or higher was interpreted as signalling a softening in its previously obdurate stance on mon-

etary policy.
Assuming that the Lombard and discount rates come down soon, that could give the green light for Mr Norman Lamont. the chancellor, to reduce UK base rates, now at 7 per cent,

Potentially significant room for manoeuvre on this front was provided by last week's strengthening in sterling, which finished on Friday night in London at a relatively

These developments buoyed investor interest in short-dated gilts, while longer-dated securides were mainly on the sidelines due partly to lingering concern about inflationary pressures over the next few

Mr Paul Temperton, an economist at Merrill Lynch, said : All the action at the momen is at the short end of the market, with many investors perceiving that longer maturing issues have big structural problems."

Although Mr Lamont has given few public signs of preparing to cut interest rates, many economists believe it is only a question of time before he does so, especially if the recent signs of a slight upswing in the economy fail to



Lamont: Bundesbank's move may give scope for rate cuts

be repeated in the coming

Theories about a fragile upturn were given extra weight by the 3 per cent year on year increase in the MO money supply measure in December, together with some evidence about a burst in retail activity around Christmas.

Mr Šanjay Joshi, an economist at Japanese investment house Dalwa, said these indica-

while the figures for 1993-94 and 1994-95 could easily reach above £50bn, especially if growth remains relatively According to FT estimates, the PSBR in 1995-96 could

> years from 1993-94. As for gilt investors, the notion that Britain may be stuck with large deficits for a long period is unappealing, on the grounds that this will mean large tranches of pricedepressing gilt issues until the mid to late 1990s, on top of the £50bn of issues expected in

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climb to £75.8bn, or 11.2 per cent of gross domestic product,

assuming only weak growth of

l per cent a year in the three

tors did not alter his view that a recovery would be extremely slow. "The pick-up in M0 may

simply mean that people are

switching into cash, rather

than use credit cards where

they are anxious to pay off

omist at Nikko Securities, is

another relative pessimist, believing that "signs of a

rebound are unlikely to be sus-

Playing heavily on the minds

of consumers may be indica-

tions that the Treasury is con-

sidering tax increases in the

March Budget as a way to

restrain rises in the public sec-

tor borrowing requirement.

The PSBR this financial year is likely to climb to above £37bn,

Mr Stuart Thomson, an econ-

dehts." he said.

Peter Marsh | ary 8 last year. | On Thursday, another

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US MONEY AND CREDIT

#### Firm demand from investors • for flood of fresh offerings

THE holiday hangovers were swiftly banished last week, as the US bond markets began the new year on a hectic note. In the space of five trading days. a substantial mood-swing had taken place, and near-record quantities of new corporate debt had been absorbed.

Post-holiday business began quietly enough. After a raft of year-end analysts' reports had declared that inflationary forces had been expunged from the US economy and were unlikely to resurface in any significant fashion during 1993, bond prices resumed their opward drift.

At the beginning of the week, the yield on the benchmark 30-year long bond came close to dipping below the 7.3 per cent level. That contrasts with the 7.75 per cent level reached in early-November, shortly after the results of the presidential election were known, when fears that a Clinton administration would pursue a stimulative fiscal policy were at their height.

The friendly interest rate environment, however. induced corporate issuers to distribute a mass of new bond offerings last week. On Wednesday, for example, some \$4.7bn-worth of new corporate bonds were sold - only marginally less than the daily record of \$5.2bn seen on Janu-

\$4.75bn worth of new paper hit the market, bringing the new year's cumulative total to more

than \$11bn. Although the new issue pressure receded during the final trading session, dealers still expect that the new corporate bond offerings will top the

\$30bn-mark this month. Happily, these outpourings on the supply side seemed to meet fairly firm investor demand - in part, a reflection of growing confidence in the US economy. Prices of existing corporate bonds held up relatively well, and traders reported significant buying by foreign investors.

Nevertheless, by the latter half of the week, the surge in corporate debt issues was compounding concerns about the pace at which the US economy may be pulling out of recession and the size of the budget deficit problem which confronts the incoming president.

The alarm-bells started to

ring when initial unemployment claims for the week ended December 26 showed a drop of 40,000 - taking the figure to a level not seen for almost four years. They were not silenced when the December jobs data showed the unemployment rate unchanged at 7.3 per cent last month.

Many analysts believe that the speed at which the labour market is picking up was overon a Friday, so people laid off after the holiday season will not have filed for unemploy.

ment compensation that week Nevertheless, an attack of nerves, exasperated by the supply situation, seized the bond market, and the long bond slumped by 1% to yield 7.44 per cent on Thursday. By Friday afternoon, it was contin drift lower and the yield has risen to 7.46 per cent.

Still few pundits seemed inclined to adjust their predictions for the year ahead. Most were content to reiterate their belief that the underlying expansion in the economy is moderate, at best; that the new president will tread warily; and that inflation should not rise significantly above 3 per cent. Statistics to be released this

week may shed some light on the validity of these convictions. Retail sales for December - which, according to reports from the big store chains last week, were strong - are now expected to show a 0.7 to 0.8 per cent rise, while consumer and producer price indices (also for December) should confirm the low level of

The market anticipates a 0.1 per cent rise in the PPI figure, to be released on Thursday, and a 0.2 per cent increase in the CPI on the following day.

Nikki Tait

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FRENCH BONDS

#### Trading subdued after 'battle of the franc'

almost audible. Last Thursday, after the Bundeshank had cast a tacit vote of confidence in the French franc by reducing its fixed repo rate by 15 basis points, the battle-scarred French currency closed beneath the FFr3.4 barrier against the D-Mark for the first

Since early November, when the money markets renewed their attack on the franc. the Bank of France has done everything that it can to defend the currency - from spending heavily from its reserves, to last Tuesday's announcement that it was temporarily replacing the fivefacility at the higher rate of 12 per cent

The strategy seems to have worked. "The second battle for the franc is over and the French authorities have won. said Mr Didier Maillard, chief economist at Banque Paribas in Paris.

There is still a lot of tension in the foreign exchange economist at Banque Indosuez

THE RELIEF in Paris was markets and there could be further attacks on the franc. But it is safe for the time being," he added.

> The French government certainly seems to think so. Mr Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister and architect of the franc fort policy of protecting the French currency in his former role as finance minister, was sufficiently confident this weekend to assure the French electorate that the franc would "not be devalued for as long as I am

prime minister." In other words, the French authorities are now convinced that they have bought a breathing space for the franc at least until German interest rates come down, thereby enabling France to follow suit without endangering its currency.

prospects for French bonds are scarcely scintillating. "The long-term outlook is very positive," according to Mr

But in the meantime, the

in Paris. One way or another French interest rates are bound to come down and the French bond market should then really start to perform. But in the meantime it will be fairly subdued."

appropriate adjective for last week's performance. The French government's regular auction on Thursday received a lukewarm response, raising FFr16.46bn

Subdued was certainly an

The vield on the benchmark 10-year OAT government bonds slipped to 7.98 per cent by the of last week significantly lower than 8.02 per cent the previous week and 8.13 per cent a month

Moreover, the spread between French OATs and German bunds is still much wider than the French authorities would wish.

The gap rose as high as 100 basis points when the markets stepped up the second assault on the franc in late November, Christopher Potts, chief and is now hovering at between 90 and 100 basis

"triumph" for the French authoritles.

The consensus among economists is that the spread will remain at that level until German interest rates come down and the franc is finally free from the threat of devaluation.

In the meantime, the French economic scene, and the Paris bond market, will continue to be dominated by the fluctuations of the franc and by political uncertainty in the approach to the March

Once the franc is safe and the elections are over, French bonds ought to recover and the spread against bunds will narrow.

Mr Potts of Indosuez suspects that it may fall as far as 30 basis points by the end of 1993 - even lower than its historic low of 38 basis points in late 1991, when the fight for the franc seemed a long way

Alice Rawsthorn

Pool esting price (17.68 28.31 23.30 23.25 23.25 23.25 17.65 17.64 17.84

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to paragraph 5(b) Prepayment at the Option of the Bondholder", of the erms and Conditions of onds, a nominal amount of FRF 167.630.000

lling on January 16, 1993. Nominal amount outstanding after January 16, 1993: FRF332.370.000

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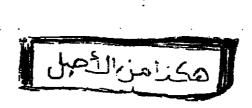
has been presented for redemption on the Interest Payment Date

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The Long-Term Credit Bank
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Tokyo 9th July, 1993.





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**ECONOMICS** 

# Higher UK input prices expected

SEVERAL INDICATORS on UK inflationary pressures are published this week with producer prices figures on Tuesday expected to show another rise in raw material and fuel prices in December. However, the increase was probably not as sharp as in November when sterling's devaluation had a severe impact on the index. Then input prices rose by 2.4 per cent month-on-month, taking the annual rate of increase to 4.1 per cent. The effects of a weaker

pound on commodity prices still linger and a rise of one per cent on the month is forecast for December. In spite of this, producers are not expected to pass the higher costs onto consumers and the annual rate of output price inflation is forecast to increase only slightly. Credit business figures today may add weight to anecdotal, and some statistical evidence that retail sales are recovering. However, many UK economists remain sceptical about the strength of the apparant upturn, believing that private consumption will be restrained by continuing job uncertainty and heavy personal indebted-

In Germany retail sales figures for November are forecast to have fallen by just under 1 per cent, confirming that the hoped-for rise in retail sales

**UK producer prices** Tomorrow: UK, December producer prices index - input (up 1 Annual % change per cent on month, up 6 per cent on year), output (up 0.2 Output per cent on month, up 3.4 per cent on year), excluding food, drink and tobacco (up 2.4 per cent); France, December consumer price index (up 0.1 per cent on month, up 2.1 per cent

on year).

Wednesday: Germany, first estimate for 1992 GDP · West (up 1.2 per cent on year), first estimate GNP - WEst (up 0.9 per cent on year); Norway, December trade balance excluding ships and oil platforms (NKr4.5bn surplus); UK, Committee stage of Maastricht treaty resumes until January 14; October labour income (up 0.2 per cent on month).

Thursday: US, December retail sales (up 0.7 per cent), excluding autos (up 0.5 per cent), December PPI (up 0.1 per cent), excluding food and energy (up 0.2 per cent), initial claims week ended January 2 (333,000), state benefits week ended December 26, money supply data for the week ended January 4, December monthly M1 (up \$3bn), M2 (up \$1.8bn), M3 (down \$5.2bn).

Friday: UK, December retail prices index (down 0.3 per cent

officers' society (3.30pm);

railway historians; railway

year), excluding mortgage interest payments (up 3.7 per cent on year); Netherlands, December CPI (flat on month, up 2.9 per cent on year); Spain. December CPI (up 0.4 per cent on month, up 5.4 per cent on year); US, December CPI (up 0.2 per cent), excluding food and energy (up 0.2 per cent). November merchandise trade balance (\$7.5bn deficit), November merchandise exports (\$38.5bn), imports (\$46bn), December industrial production (up 0.3 per cent), December capacity utilisation (79 per cent), November business inventories (flat), December real earnings; Canada, November merchandise

During the week: Germany, November trade balance (DM4.3bn surplus), November current account (DM1bn defi-cit), November retail sales (down 0.8 per cent), December wholesale price index (up 0.1 per cent); Spain, November M4 (up 11 per cent on year).

exports (down 2.3 per cent on

month, November merchandise

imports (up 2.3 per cetn on

month), November trade bal-

ance (C\$800m surplus); Japan

all markets closed.

Emma Tucker, **Economics Staff** 

#### RESULTS DUE

TOMKINS, the conglomerate which has just bought Ranks Hovis McDougall, the bakery, milling and baking company, is expected to report today interim profits of £47m, up from £43.7m. Earnings per share are expected to be up 8 per cent. Tomkins is expected to be enjoying the beginnings of recovery in the US where it has extensive manufacturing operations.

Wednesday sees interim results from Dixons Group. They will depend on how the

electrical retailing group announcing preliminary chooses to treat the £10m property development profits. Assuming they are not taken at the pre-tax line, taxable profits of about £10m are expected, against last time's £17.5m. Good growth in the UK retail side will lift profits to £20m (£16m), while in the US, losses will also grow to £14m (£11m). Its comments on Christmas trading which falls in its second half, will also be

of close interest. The Rank Organisation,

National Home Loans Hidgs., Sta-tioners' Hall, Ave Maria Lane,

Ludgale Hill, EC., 12.00. BOARD MEETINGS:

Final:

Dewhurst Interims:

results on Thursday for the year ended October, is expected to reveal unchanged trading profits for its managed businesses. But lower profits are expected at Rank Xerox, its photocopier joint venture. while profits from its 50 per cent stake in the Universal Studios theme park in Florida should be significantly higher. This adds up to group pre-tax profits slightly lower at £245m (£250.5m). The total dividend should be unchanged at 31p.

day for its financial year ended October, Pre-tax profits are forecast to rise from £30.4m to between £30.6m and £32m. Assuming £30.6m, earnings will fall to 15.5p (15.67p) after a higher tax charge, and a 10 per cent rise in the total dividend to 6.25p is expected. Securicor, the security and

First Leisure is reporting

preliminary results on Wednes

parcels delivery group, is forecast to unveil a sharp jump in pre-tax profits from £33m to £54m for the year on Thursday.

#### **UK COMPANIES**

COMPANY MEETINGS: Save & Prosper Linked Inv. Trust, 1 Finsbury Avenue, EC., 3.00. Trafeloar House. The Oueso Fliz-11.30. BOARD MEETINGS: Berr (A.G.)

Treatt Carclo Enginee Hadleigh industries Tomkins 1 4 1

**I TOMORROW** COMPANY MEETINGS: Automagic Hidgs., A.M. House, Coldharbour Lane, Harpenden, Carr's Milling industries, Forte Crest Hotel. Kingslown, Carlise, 11.30 McLeod Russel Hidgs., Devon Room, New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, WC., 11.00 Barbour Index Dalepak Foods Howden Jacques Vert West Trust **EWEDNESDAY JANUARY13** COMPANY MEETINGS: Capital Radio, Euston Tower, NW., 2.00.

Gleeson (M.J.) Group, Haredon House, London Road, North Cheam. 12.00. M & G Group, Painters' Hall, Little Trinly Lane, EC., 12.00, Prospect Inds., Forte Crest, The Marina, Castle Street, Hull, 10.30. Shanl Group, Marriot Hotel, 10 Grosvenor Square, W., 12.00. BOARD MEETINGS:

First Leisure Southern Business Interims: Aberforth Split Level Tst. Dixons
Dudley Jenkins
First Spanish inv. Tst.
Lazard Select Inv.

**MITHURSDAY JANUARY 14** COMPANY MEETINGS: BOC Group, Savoy Hotel, The Strand, WC., 11.00. Regina, 2A Alexandra Grove, Finriega, N., 10.30.
Young (H.) Hidgs., The Leander Club, Henley-on-Thames, 12.00.
BOARD MEETINGS: Aberforth Smaller Co.

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Stanley Leisure

First National Fin.

**MFRIDAY JANUARY15** 

Please note: Reports & accounts are not normally available until androximately six weeks after the pard meeting to approve the preliminary results.

Bellway, Copthorne Hotel, New-castle-Upon-Tyne, 12.00. BOARD MEETINGS:

#### PARLIAMENTARY DIARY

#### **TODAY**

Commons: Questions to Transport ministers. Public Accounts Commission, Commons Commission and Commons Leader. Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill, remaining stages. Lords: Not sitting.

Transport Committees: implications of the autumn statement (4pm). Witnesses - Mr John MacGregor, transport secretary and Mr Steven Norris, junior transport minister.

#### **■ TOMORROW**

Commons: Defence questions. 15pm Questions to the Prime Minister (3.15pm). Debate opened by Opposition - subject to be announced insurance Companies (Amendment) Regulations

input (Materials & Fuel)

after the temporary income tax

was lifted in July never materi-

Other highlights of the week

follow. The figures in brackets

are the median of economists

forecasts from MMS Interna-

tional, a financial information

Today: UK, November con-

sumer credit (up £50m), House

of Commons returns from

Christmas recess; Norway,

November CPI (flat on month

up 2.2 per cent on year); Can-

ada, November new housing

price index (up 0.1 per cent),

November motor vehicle sales

(up 0.4 per cent). December

housing starts (170,000): Aus-

tralia, November retail trade

1991

#### Lords: Not sitting. **■ WEDNESDAY**

(down 0.7 per cent).

Commons: Foreign Office questions. European Communities (Amendment) Bill, committee

Lords: Not sitting.Commit-

tees: Parliamentary Com-missioner for Administration (10.30am). Transport -Future of the rallways; witnesses - European Commission DG VII 11am). Office of Fair Trading (at 11am). Health and safety executive; railway inspectorate (12 noon). National heritage -The national lottery. Witness - Mr Peter Brooke, national heritage secretary. Transport - Future of the railways.

Witnesses - Retired railway

clearing house (at 4.15pm); British Rail, train load freight and rail freight distribution (5pm). Health - community care. Witness - Audit Commission. Public accounts - operation of the Royal dockyards under commercial management (4.15pm). Witness - vice admiral Sir Neville Purvis, chief of fleet support, ministry of defence. Treasury and civil service - the work and responsibilities of the office of public service and science. Witness - Mr William

# THURSDAY

questions. Questions to the ary 18.

the duchy of Lancaster.

Waldegrave, chancellor of

Prime Minister, European Communities (Amendment) Bill. committee. Lords: Not sitting.

Committees: Foreign affairs - Europe after Maastricht (10.30am). Witness Mr Tristan Garel-Jones, minister of state, foreign and commonwealth office. National heritage - Privacy and media intrusion (10.30am). Witness Mr Andreas Whittam-Smith. editor of The Independent.

#### FRIDAY

Commons: Backbench business - Osteopaths Bill, sec-Lords: Not sitting.

Commons: Home Office The Lords returns on Janu-

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C.1 W Hill, Liquidator

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Banking Conference Central Bankers, investment bankers and authoritative analysts examine issues tie even more compelling by the events of Autumn 1992 at a conference onsored by Central Banking, N M Rothschild and Cityforum with the support of the World Gold Council. tion from: Marc Lec.

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Latin American Integration ed by Canning House and the BC ission this conference looks at the impact of integration initiatives on the tries and regions of Latin America and at the prospects for European industry and finance. An impressive panel

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stact: Leigh Sylos, CRI. Tel: 071-895 8823

#### LONDON FEBRUARY 11 & 12

The Russian Oil industry: Foreign investment Opportunities
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Petroleum Intelligence Weekly and The
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ries: RIIA Co Tel: 071-957 5700. Page 071-957 5710. LONDON

**FEBRUARY 18** IT investment Appraisal This one day conference is devoted to improving corporate performance in the critical area of IT investment appraisal. The event quant on the bractical exterience of menagers from leading organisations, and reviews a

variety of the latest methods and tools. Contact: Business Intelligence. Tel: 081-544 1830. Pax: 081-544 9020. LONDON

FEBRUARY 19 TURKEY: Economic Prospects and Business Opportunities Convened by The Royal Institute of International Affairs and Wilton Park, in association with The Terkish British Chamber of Commerce & Industry. To be held at Chatham House, London.

Tel: 071 957 5700 Page 071 957 5710.

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**FEBRUARY 22** London Motor Conference The conference will look at the challenges and opportunities facing the European motor manufacturing and compoindustry and review developments in ution and franchising. Enquiries: Financial Times. Tel: 071-814 9770. Fax: 071-873 3975/3969.

anyone considering a European don. Leading experts guide you through the M&A maze, covering both technical and practical aspects of acquiring in Europe. Competition is fierce and up-to-date information is ial. Not to be missed! Contact: Acquisitions Monthly Tel: 071 823 8740. Page 071 581 4331.

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k			5 29850 Gelf Call R 380 370 5000 GW Little \$514 5%	375	204300 Onto Corp :	57 % 7 % \$21 % 21 %		-1 <sub>2</sub> 1 - No	00 WIC B 2 voting rights or	\$15 ES 15 restricted voting righ	i Na
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Ď	1	14600 Cascades \$81 <sub>2</sub> 81 <sub>3</sub> 61 <sub>3</sub> ~ 30000 Celanese \$40 381 <sub>4</sub> 391 <sub>4</sub>	8   10000 Labert 527 257 <sub>8</sub>	25% -1 <sub>8</sub>	200 Rothmans 270100 RoyalBicon 130200 Ryl Ock Mrs	195 187	237 + 195 -	6700	O Talegiobe u\$1		
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		LIEU VARV		- INL	ICES				<del></del>	<u></u>	<b>-</b> ·
į		NEW YORK DOW JONES Jan Jan Jan		compilation		Jan A	Jan 7		5 High	1992/93 LOW	 <u></u>
,		8 7 6 Industrials 3251.67 3268.69 3305.15	5 HIGH LOW HIGH 3307 87 3413.21 3136.56 3413.21 (1/6/92) (9/10/92) (1/6/92)		AUSTRALIA Ali Ordisale (1/1/80)	1502.3	1530.9		564.8 1684.50 (22)		-
	1	Home Bonds 103.59 103.75 103.90	103.82   163.90   98.41   103.90   1671/931   120/3/923   16/1/933	5199 11/10/81) 12:32	AUSTRIA	588 2	600.5		611.7 726.80 G/7		_
	1	Transport 1489 29 1480.23 1467 74 Utilities 217 14 218 59 221 27	1 (5/1,193) (26/18/92) (5/19/89)	<b>10.20</b>	Credit Akties (30/12/84) Traded Index (2/1191)	305.24 725.80	307.31 730.96		08.56   458.57 (24/2 36.33   1099.43 (24)		:
		DJ Indi. Day's Hig	3290.31 (3333 53) Low 3221.68 (3250 32) High 3268.96 (3313 00) Low 3231.95 (3260	(8)4/32) (Theoretical pl	BELGRUM BEL20 (L/1/91)	1143.97	1133,93	TIZETI 17	32.07 1235 40 (2/6	1921 1046.07 (2)9/92	-
		Day's	High 3268.96 (3313.00) Low 3231.95 (3260	0.86) (Actsale)	DENMARK Copyligen SE (3/1/83)	256.85	266 99	266.74 2	4 28 365.29 05/1		_
	1				FINLAND HEX General (28/12/90)	905.0	921.9		935.90 (24/2	1 1	_
	<b>\</b>	STANDARD AND POOR'S			FRANCE (AC Several (31/12/81)	483 61	485.15		79.95 955.93 02.5	- :-:	
	1	Composite: 429.04 430.73 434.52	034.34 441.28 394.50 441.28 038/12/92 08/4/92 (18/12/92)	4.40	CAC 40 (31/12/87)	1852.63	1844,47	1859 <u>63</u> 185	2077.49 U.L.		
ď	1	Industrials 499.48 500 95 505.60 Financial 39.89 40 13 40.62	08/12/92 98/4/92 08/12/92 506.05 515.75 470.91 515.75 (18/12/92) 98/4/92 08/12/92 40.49 41.07 32.40 41.07 (30/12/92) 88/4/92 (30/12/92)	3.62 ) (21/6/32)	FAZ Aktien (31/12/56) Communication (1/12/53)	602.72 1707.76	606.86 1718.90	1723.60 17	19.72   725.26 (265.5 127.3   2043.80 (256.5	1772)   1594.60 (12/16/92	<b>5</b>
	١.		39,25 242,08 217,92 242,08	8.64 0./10/743	DAX (30/12/87) HONG KONG	1531.52	_		6.42   1811.57 (25/5		_
	1	Ames Niki. Value 395.84 397.12 397.60	(18/12/92) (8/4/92) (18/12/92) 997.31 418.99 364.85 418.99	25/4/42) 29.31	Hang Song Bank (31,7)64) TRELAND	5529.56			883 6447.11 02/1		-
	١.	KASDAQ Composite 677.21 678 21 68L85 (	(12/2/92) (9/10/92) (12/2/92) 674.34 (681.85 547.84 (681.85	54.87	ISEQ Owerli (4/1/88)	1293.43			5.28   1469.57 (17)1	<u> </u>	<del>-</del> .
	-	Dec 31	L6/1/93  C26/6/92  L6/1/93    Dec 24   Dec 18   year ago	(31/10/72) (approx.)	Banca Com. Ital. (1972) MIB General (4/1/93)	456 69 1010.0	455.45 1006.0		3.72   551.59 66/2/9 03.0 1010.00 08/1/		
	} •	Now Industrial Div. Yield 3.14	3.12 3.13 2.5 Dec 16 Dec 9 year ago		Japan Nikis (16/5/49)			6782.58 1684			
		& P Industrial div. yield 2.58	2.50 2.58 2.7	78	Tokyo SE (Taplo) (4/1/68) 2nd Section (4/1/68)	1289.52 1713.65		1291.87 129 1719.46 171	6.13   1763.43 Ky14 7.76   2499.85 Ky14		
	}	i & P Indi. P/E rates 26.85	26 78 27.10 23 2		MALAYSIA KLSE Composite (4/4/86)	629.51	636.26	633.66 E3	187 660.35 (5/11/	22 546.63 (14)1/92)	_
					NETHERLANDS CBS TILRES GOLERI 1983 CBS All Ser (End 1983)	297.4 200.1	299.2 201.4		97.4 314.90 (9/6/9 12.2 215.50 (26/5/		
	١.	UPU VARI AARI WATER	TO A DIVINO A DESCRIPTION		MORWAY 946 SE 660 (2/1/83)	· 690.04		700.81 695			-
	1	NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS Stocks Closing Change	TRADING ACTIVITY  † Volume Millions		PHILIPPINES Name Comp (2/1/85)	1313.31		277.42 1274		<del>                                     </del>	-
_	1 -	riday traded price on day lat Med Est 7,233,000 10 - 15	Jan 8 Jan 7 Meer York SE 262.620 303,14		SINGAPORE SES AU-SINGAPORE (2/4/75)	401.61		404.02 402			-
	To LE	elefonos 7,056,000 57 - 1 BM 3,947,400 464 - 3	Amer 16.977 20.04 HASDAQ (a) 252.29	B 16.529	SOUTH AFRICA JSE Gold (28/9/78)	790 Oy	793.0		5.0 1327.00 G1/1/		•
	A	#ilip Morris 3,636,300 74% + 1½ dr Micro 3,403,700 19% - %	NYSE Issues Tradeo 2,427 2,43		SOUTH KOREA**	4536.09	4478.0	4406.0 436	3.0 4689 00 14669		
	į w	Val-Mart 3,173,900 59½ 5 Next 3,144,300 42½ + 1 Nexter 3,042,200 36 + 5	Rises 680 72 Falls 1,179 1.15	7 1,073	Korsa Comp Ez. (4/1/80) SPAIN	704.50		688.40 690			<u>.</u>
	B	hysier 3,042,200 36 + ½ lankAmer 3,008,100 43½ · ½ kristol Myers 2,967,500 62½ · ½	Unchanged 568 54 New Highs 48 12	8 573 0 99	Matrix SE (30/12/85) SWEDEN Affarmation Geo (1/2/37)	220 <u>12</u> 948.30	220,12	<u>(d) 220.</u>	-		
	۔ ا	4	New Londs 20 1	7 16	SWITZERLAND SWIS Bark Int. (31/12/58)	918.3	944.00 924.3	<u> </u>			
		CANADA CORONTO Jan Jan Ja	a las		SBC General (1/4/87)	665.1	687.5	437.5 43 696.4 69		748.50 8811/92 96.40 (26/8/92)	
	۱ ـ	8 7 6	5 HIGH 1	LOW	Weighted Price (30/6)66/ THARLAND	3171.99	3135.56 31	88.44 3342	18 5391.63 (30)1/9	21 3135 56 (7)1/93	
			2.69 2878.40 3238.87 (16/1 <sub>2</sub> 92) 2529.91 3.01 3353.50 3666.00 (16/1 <sub>2</sub> 92) 3195.40	L (17/11/72) ) (14/10/92)	Banglesk SET (30/4/75) WORLD	920.79		04.11 890.		0 667.84 (195/92)	
			9.90 1777 59 1937 59 (16/1/92) 1663.16 All Common 50: Standard and Provis		M.S. Capital lett.(1/1/70) \$ Euro Top-100 (26/6/90)		874.78 B	495.5 495 83 12 883.3	976 45 (25/5/92		
	l au	ase values of all Indices are 100 except NYSE ordeto Composite and Metals – 1000. Toronto 3. † Excluding Bonds. † Industrial, plus Utilitie	6. Financial and Transportation (c) Clos	ted for	"Saturday January 2: Tale ¶ Subject to official recalc	ran Weighted P ulation.	rice (c), Ka	rea Courp Ex.	(c)	ed at 15.00 GMT,	
	3fi (9t	nd lowest prices reached during the day by each upplied by Telekurs) represent the highest and	ay's myris and lows are the averages or th I Stock; whereas the actual day's highs an lowest values that the Index has reached	ne highest nd kows	Base values of all indices are Duralized DAY = 1.000 is	100 except: Au	stria Traded	BEL20, NEX			(
	da	ay. (The figures in brackets are previous day's)			Overall and DAX - 1,000, JS (c) Closed, (u) Unavariable.	~ waa − 255.7,	, J3¢ 65 1969	surais 254 <u>.</u> 3	and Australia Alf Ord	loary and Mining-500;	
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CANADA

	TOI			Active Sto anuary, 1993	cks		
Yamaha Mozor Dowa Mining Toshuba Corp NPN Steel Corp	Stocks Traded 2.3m 2.1m 2.0m 1.9m 1.8m	Closing Prices -8 + 28 + 4 -10 -4	Change on day 757 790 551 623 286	Isuzu Motor Nomura Sec Mitsubishi Heavy Toray Ind Victor Co	Stocks Traded 1.8m 1.8m 1.5m 1.5m	Closing Prices + 1 -10 -2 -2 +51	Change on day 320 1,480 529 851 860

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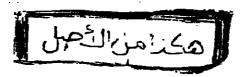
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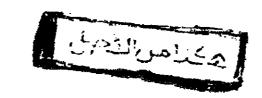
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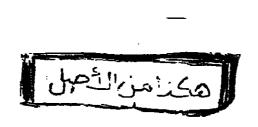
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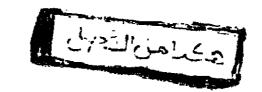
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#### CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

#### FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKETS Conflicting factors

THE DOLLAR'S exchange rate count rates. against the D-Mark will be swayed by conflicting forces this week, writes James Blitz Pushing the US currency upwards are growing expectations that the Bundesbank will aggressively ease monetary policy next month, narrowing the differential between US

APV

and German interest rates. Undermining the currency, however, are concerns that the upturn in the US economy is still not as strong as expected. The Bundesbank's decision to cut its money market dealing rate has probably given the dollar a firm underpinning for the next week or two. The

recent 15 basis point cut in the fixed rate repo, to 8.60 per cent. has been well received by the markets, pushing the dollar as high as DM1.6490 in European trading on Friday. However, dealers will be watching the next two Bundesbank council meetings to see

whether the central bank follows last Thursday's move with another cut, either in money market rates or the officially-posted Lombard and dis-

£ IN NEW YORK

STERLING INDEX

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Morgas Guaranty changes: average 1980-1982-190. Bank of England Index (Base Average 1985-100). Plates are for Jan.7

Close High Low Pre103-29 104-09 103-15 104-03 102-29 101-16 101-27 101-06 101-25 100-13 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-03 100-09 101-25 100-13 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100-23 100-04 100

High (pw 96.89 96.75 96.61 96.43 96.25 96.06

PHILADELPHIA SE E/S OPTIONS E31,258 (costs per EI)

Strike Price 1.475 1.500 1.525 1.575 1.600 1.625

Prev. 96,78 96,45 96,07 95,63

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This week, in particular, dealers will be watching progress in the talks on the German wage round and budget deficit. A successful conclusion to these talks would make it easier for the German central bank to ease policy again next month.

Last Friday's poorer-than-ex-pected figure for US employment may give the dollar a slightly weaker tone, however. The non-farm payroll figure in the US is still seen as one of

It tends to have a strong impact on dollar trading for several days afterwards.

the best indications of the

strength of the country's econ-

The latest figure, for December, proved something of a dis-appointment in Friday afternoon trading, rising by 64,000 on the month, when dealers had been looking for a rise of more than 100,000.

The US weekly jobless claims figures on Thursday will therefore be watched particularly

OTHER CURRENCIES

1 15175 - 15190 0 99000 - 0.99100 
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**CURRENCY RATES** 

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Close High Low Prev. 0.7972 0.7966 0.7959 0.7979 0.7972 0.7985 0.7968 0.7981 0.7985 0.7998

3.00 7.21 8.25 7.75 9.50 8.25 7.75 10 12.00 3.25 5.50 19

Bank rate refers to central bent disc.
These are not quoted by the UK, Spain
† European Commission Calculations,
\* All SOR rates are for Jan. 7

DEUTSCHE MARK (IMIO IM125,000 \$ per OM Close Mar 0.5025 0 Jun 0.5961 0 Sep 0.5917 0 Dec 0.5885

Jan B

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elgiters .	33.75 - 33.95	33 80 - 33 90	14.10-15.10cds	-5.18 l	39.00-42 00dk	-43
erent		6,323 - 6,3275	4.75-7 750rests	-11.86	16.00-20.00di;	-11
erminy	16350 - 16500	16370 - 16380	0.74-0.76midis	-550	2.04-Z.07dls	J -5j
ortugai	147.05 - 148.05	147 10 - 147.26		11.67	405-425ds	-11
pada *	116.20 - 117.05	116.35 - 116.45	123-133cds	-132	335-355dk	-11.0
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	bid 3 <u>2</u>	offer 3%	bld 31 <sub>2</sub>	offer 34

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7748 577	Fe 0.55 1.11 2.01 3.22 4.91 6.89		Mar 1.28 2.03 3.00 4.34 5.96 7.77 9.81	Jun 3.17 4.18 5.38 6.80 8.33 10.08 11.96	Treasury Bills (sell); one- Bank Bills (sell); one- tender rate of discount December 31, 1992, 48 8, 38 p.c., Schemes II & 1992, Scheme IV&V: seven days futed. Finan sants at seven days notic over held under one mor cent; six-nine months 5 from Nov.16, 1992, be	omth 681 pe 6.3574 . I reed rates fo III: 8.50 p.c. 7.232 p.c. Lt. 22 Houses Ba 4 per Cent. I th 312 per c per cent. In	r cent; three combined Jan Reference rate properties of the combined Section 1/2 Centificates and; one-the combined two lives the combined two lives to the combined two lives the combined two l	e months 6 Rate Steri nary 26, 19 ate for perio ty and Fina from Jacob of Tax Depo nee months 6 onths 5 per	A per cent; ling Export 93 to Febru d December nce Houses s rry 1, 1993; sit (Series 6 5 per cent; t cent; Under	Figance. Wary 23, 199 1, 1992 to 1 even days' n : Bank Depo ); Deposit El hree-six m	llis; Average lake up day 3, Scheme I: December 31 otice, others sit Rates for 100,000 and nths 512 per

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Bank of Ireland ,	Hebib Bank AG Zurich _7	Standard Chartered 7
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●Brown Shipley7	C. Hoare & Co 7	Western Trust 7
CL Bank Nedarland7	Hongkong & Shanghai 7	Whiteaway Laidlew 7
Citibank NA,7	Julian Hodge Bank 7	Yorkshire Bank 7
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STOCK INDICES												
	Jan 8	Jan 7	Jan 6	Jan 5	Jan 4	Dec 31	High	1992/93 Low	Since Cor High	npitation Low		
FT-SE 100	2799.2	2816.5	2826.0	2833.6	2861.5	2846.5	2861.5	2281.0	2861.5	986.9		
FT-SE Mid 250	2932.7	2940.3	2919.3	2910.2	2896.4	2882.9	2919.3 1388.9	2157.8	2919.3 1388.9	1379.4 664.5		
FT-SE-A 350	1377.2 1358.35	1384.7 1362.73	1386,3 1363,66	1388.3 1364.65	1397.7 1373.20	1388.6 1363.79	1373.20	1103.1 1086.13	1373.20	61.92		
FT-A Alt-Share FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1080.35	1081.92	1091.68	1090.07	1083.42	1083.35	1200.27	937.42	1200.27	900.45		
FT-SE Eurotrack 200	1167.34	1171,90	1179.18	1180.16	1174,71	1169.11	1248.79	1010.09	1248.79	938.62		
FT Ordinary	2176.6	2193.3	2194.8	2189.1	2209.9	2185.2	2209.9	1670.0	2209. <del>9</del>	48.4		
FT Government Secs.	93.83	93,96	94.16	93.99	94.05 109.51	94.34 109.61	95.54 1 10.26	85.11 97.15	127.40 110.26	49.18 50.53		
FT Fixed Interest	109.36 61.9	109.59 62.2	109.57 60.9	109.53 60.4	709.51 62.5	63.8	160.6	60.4	734.7	43.5		
FT Gold Minet	61.9	02.2					100.0		701.7	40.0		
			LONDO	SHAR	E SERVI	CE						
BRITISH FUNDS		E	KRITISH FUNDS	- Cont.			BRITISH FL	INDS - Cont.				
W's, % Notes Price Ecti*nge	Arrent interest Em due	(gest Caty and fine	Mean	Wiki% Proce Schinge	Armet interest Ens. due	Last City ad Ros		With 1 Notice Price Sching		st Last City xd line		
"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)			1450 '98-1	126.1	878 Hv22 My2	2 16.18 1305	Index-Linked	<b>-</b>		~ ==		
Trees 8400 1983	900 Au18 Fe18 1,850 Oc15 Ap15	13.7 5047 8.9 1279	9 <sup>1</sup> 400 2002	1894 -7 224 -30	5,717 Fe27 Aú27 2,500 Je10 De10	21.7 1349		(b) ./102.0h 1321₁	3 560 Nv15 M	vIR 12.10 5070		
121-nc 1983++ 103-\u00e401	1,200 Ja14 Jy14	8.1 1296	10ac 2003	. 110% -8	2,503 Mad Se6	3.8 1281	200 '96	_637.91 1957 :	2 1.100 Mm6 S	16 <b>188 1</b> 313		
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Trees 134 pc 1993## 105#2 - 3 812pc 1984 - 1811## - 1	1,065 My23 My23 2,100 Au3 Fe3	19.10 1304 Ft 29.12 4971 Q	onomy 3*2pc <del>39-4</del> Doversion 9 <sup>1</sup> 2pc 2004	685 al -9 1063 -1.0	443 Jul4 Jy14 3,012 A025 0c25		2120C 103			20 14.10 1317 20 14.10 1317		
14½nc 1894tt 188½ -3	558 Sai Mri	<b>27.7</b> 1307	91 <sub>20</sub> c 2005	. 147%9	4,842 Oc18 Ap18	11,91247	4 <sup>3</sup> -pc '04	_r:35.61 108% 0.		21		
Exch 131-pc 1994	1,180 Oc27 Ap27 1,580 Deg Jeg	21.9 1267 Tr 2.11 1284	eas (21 <sub>2</sub> ps 2003-5	1251 -10 864 -15	2,200 My21 My21 1,900 Ar5 0c5		2 <sup>1</sup> 205 '06					
Each 121/20c 1994 10812 - 1	1,248 F622 Au22	19.7 1263 7	8p; 2002-611 eas 11 kpc 2003-7	119 24 -10	1,900 And Oct 3,150 Jy22 Ju22	76.12 1293	21200; 111		1.568 Re23 A	23 17.7 1319		
Treas 9pc 1994# 193H	1,500 My17 Nv17 2,350 Jy25 Ju25	12101345 ]	Teles 81-10C 2007 12	. 921372 -1.5	2,897 Ja16 J <sub>7</sub> 16	6,1 1330	21 <sub>2</sub> pc 13 21 <sub>2</sub> pc 16	(89.2) 1235 0. (81.6) 13145a0 0.		16 10.7 1330 26 21.12 1321		
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101490 1995 107(32)	2,508 Ju21 Jy21 840 My15 No15	£1 1254					2120: 24# 448: 30#	(97.7) 104 kg 0.4		17 8.1 1323		
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90c 200011 106 <sup>1</sup> 2 -5	4,158 Se3 Mr3 3,171 Ja14 Jy14	28.7 1244 Tri 8.1 1298 Co	tas 3pc "66 At	34 -25 2837	85 APS DES 276 SJEANJYOU	1.9 1324 1.12 1238	N'wide Anglis 3% pr 4% pc ft. 2024	2021. 118 <sup>1</sup> 2 0.4	60 Ja30 Jy 60 Fa23 An	30 8.13465 23 20.7 -		
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#### FT-ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

Jointly compiled by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and NatWest Securities Limited in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

NATIONAL AP		FRIDAY JANUARY 8 1993								THURSDAY JANUARY 7 1943				<u> </u>	DOLLAR MOEX		
REGIONAL M Figures in par show number of stock	rentheses	US Dollar Index	% chg (5) since 31/12/92	Pound Starting Index	Yen Index	DM Index	Local Currency Index	Local % chg from 31/12/92	Gross Olv. Ylekt	US Doller Index	Pound Sterling Index	Yen Index	DM Index	Local Currency Index	1992/93 High	1992/93 Low	Year ago (appro
A		118.62	-5.2	114.05	93.92	100.99	117.32	-3.0	4.14	120.98	116.77 130.38	95.70 106.86	102.90 114.89	119.6 <del>9</del> 114.83	153.68 186.70	108.18 132.97	147.1 187.1
Australia (68)		133.51	-4.7	128.37	105.71	113.87	113.75	-3.1	2.15 5.15	135.08 132,44	127.83	104.78	112.64	109.90	152.27	131.19	140.
Austria (18) Belgium (42).		132.97	- 0.2	127.85	105.27	113,20	111.00	+ 1.6 1.5	3,23	113.70	109.75	89.94	96.70	105.30	142.12	111.36	138.
bergium (42). Canada (113)		112.92	-23	108.57	89.40	96.13	104.83	+3.4	1.86	191.69	185.03	151.65	163.05	184.71	273.94	181.70	265,
Denmark (33)		190.92	+2.6	183.56	151.16	162.53	164.24 83.39	+9.1	1.69	74.33	71.75	58.81	63.23	84.71	89.80	52.84	82.
Cialand Mol		72.71	+4.4	69,90	57.57	61.90	127.85	+0.2	3,53	145.88	140.80	115,39	124.06	127.23	168.75	135.93	149,
France (99) France (99)		146,33	- D.S	140.69	115.84	124.56	87.03	-0.6	2.61	103.08	99,47	81.54	87.55	87.65	129.69	102.20	114,
Germany (62)	···	102.23	- 1.7	98.29	80.95	87.03	221.23	+0.5	4.05	222.83	215.08	175,28	189.54	221.49	262.28	176.36	178,
Hong Kong (		222.57	+0.5	214.00	178.21	189.49	125.93	+6.8	4.35	143.60	138.61	113.60	122.14	126.19	173.71	122.98	166.
reland (16)		143.31	+5.5	137.78	113.46	122.01	61.92	+ 2.5	3.36	54.68	52.77	43.25	46.50	61.70	80.86	47,47	76.
taly (76)	,	55.27	+0.7	53.14	43.76	47.05	81.65	-1.5	1.03	104,01	100.40	82.28	88,48	<b>82,28</b>	140.95	87.27	128.
Japan (472)		103.13	1.8	99, 16	81.85	87.81 220.40	258.99	-1.7	2.56	263,18	254.03	208.19	223.84	262,98	282,42	212.49	213.
Malaysia (69)		258.89	- 1.0	248.92	204.96	1460.07	5823.25	+3.6		1725.81	1685.80		1467.89			1185.84	1467.
Maiaysia (Us) Mawlaa (19)		1715.04	+4.1		1357.84	128.83	127.05	+1.1	4.48	152.37	147.07	120,54	129.60	127,89	169.70	147.88	149.
Netherland (2	iei	151.33	+ 0.0	145.50	119.81	35.49	43.34	-22	5.05	42.31	40,84	33,48	35.99	44.1B	48.52	37.39	47,
Vew Zealand		41.68	-2.8	40.07	33.00	121.14	135.58	+ 4.9	1.78	143,35	138.36	113,40	121.93	136.73	192.95	128.05	177.
		142.29	+3.3	136.81	112.66		162.76	+0.9	2.02	213,93	205.49	169.24	181.96	163.65	229.63	179.65	218.
Norway (22)		212.32	-0.5	204.14	168.10	180.75	163.54	+4.1	3.12	152.83	147.52	120,90	129.99	160,95	263.60	134.21	263,
ingapore (3		152.99	+3.3	147.09	121.12	130.24	103.98	+2.8	5.86	117.98	113.87	93.33	100.34	103.68	161.72	107.10	154.
South Africa		117.92	+1.1	113.38	93.36	100.39	178.49	+3.0	2.40	163,72	158.03	129.52	139.26	178,81	200.28	149.69	180.
Spain (47)	·	182.55	- 1.8	156.29	128.70	138.39	101.98	- 0.7	2.10	110.33	106.49	87.28	93.85	102.08	122.37	95.99	100,
weden (36).		110.11	-26	105.86	87.18	93.75	166.96	-1.1	4.43	174,02	187.97	137,66	148.00	167.97	200.07	161.86	176.
Switzerland (	301	173.67	+ 0.8	166.98	137.49	147.84	175.38	-1.5	2.92	176.03	169.91	139.26	149.73	176.03	180.06	160.92	169.
Inited Kingd	OM (240)	175.38	-1.5	168.62	138.86	149.31	1/0.34					107 60	415 77	125.16	156.88	131.31	143.
JSA (522)				100 00	107.54	115.64	124.78	- 0.1	3.78	136.11	131.38	107.68	115.77 127.18	144.53	188.52	141.24	183.
urope (781).		135.63	-0.1	130.50	117.46	126.31	143.99	+3.5	2.13	149.52	144.32	118.29		87.82	141.97	93.70	130.
Vordic (114)		148.36	+0.0	142.65	85.28	91.70	87.11	-1,4	1.39	108.67	104.89	85.97	92.43		145.21	113.80	136.
acific Basin	/715)	107.71	- 1.8	103.56	94.28	101.38	102.13	- Q,B	2.50	119.77	115.61	94.74	101.87	102.72	176.04	158.70	187.
Euro - Pacific	(1496)	119.09		114.51		146.03	170,59	-1.5	2.93	172.17	166.18	136.22	146.46	171.24		111.33	123.
Vorth Americ		171.51	- 1.6	164.90	135.80	96.63	101.80	+0.7	3.30	113.71	109.76	89.97	96.74	101.89	132.98	146.08	149.
urope Ex. U	K (555)	113.48	-0.8	109.11	89.86 120.92	130.02	142.62	- 1.1	3,72	154.35	148.99	122_13	131.30	144,15	175.31	115.99	138.0
acific Ex. Ja	nen (243)	152.70	- 1.9	146.82	95.23	102.40	104.26	-0.7	251	120.95	116.74	95.69	102.88	104.83	146.91	127.21	145.
Norld Ex. US	11687	120.27	- 1.0	115.64		114.54	122,13	-1.1	2_47	135.22	130.52	106.98	115.03	122.68	150.58	130.04	147.
Morid Ex. UK	11083	134.53	- 1.4	129.34	106.52	117.43	125.71	-1.1	2.68	138.60	133.78	109.65	117.89	128.32	153.05	151.93	159.
Norid Ex. So.	A (2149)	137.92	- 1,2	132.61	109.21	134.16	151.97	-0.9	3.24	158.13	152.63	125.11	134.52	152.53	185.40	121.92	139.
محال بالأفاسطا	.aa /1737)	157.57	- 1.0	151.50	124.76				2.65	138.58	133.77	109.64	117.88	126.66	153.70	130.66	148.
ACUTO CX. Set	ALI (1701)			132 60	109.20	117.42	126.06	-1.1	2.66	130,00	19900						
he World Inc	iex (2209) Dec 31, 198	137.92	- 1.2	102.00	1007	= 115 0	7 (US S	Index),	90.791	(Pound 9	sterling)	and 94.9	4 (Local	; Nordic:	Dec 30,	, 1988. =	139.
gasa voluos	Dec 31, 198	8 = 100	); Finlen	d: Dec 3	// ecal\	,,,,,,	•				-007						
IIS & Index	Dec 31, 198 114.45 (Pou le Financial	nd Ster	ling) and	123.22	(LOGO).	& Cn S	nd NatV	yest Şec	esiji ru	Limited.	198/						
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#### **SINGAPORE**

The FT proposes to publish this

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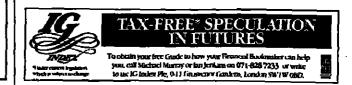
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	7 200 -23 020% © Jen Dec 10.12 5366 Assert	19500 relates to   1718   0.7   7.0   0.3   180y   27.4   3928   Fer & Col Par Supposes of Chill.   14   38   9.1   -	114
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Streetsem Bol. 48 -1.3 \$2.52 Mybulder 4.7 Mills 175 0.6 2.75 4.2 Oct Apr 24.0 2009 Philips P. Syr Co. 184 -2.3 \$1.80 McJaSo00 5.11 4135 Manyower 5 926 0.1 1854 Philips Pin 54.pc		7 201 Mag- 264 Dec 250 VM***	113
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Echo Bay V 3056 3.4 8.8c Jun Dec _ 1070 Micro Fi Edg _ 6.3027-1 1.9 Nor May 1.5 1542 Sociletin Power _ 8/1	24712 - 4.8 10.18 2.5 Mar Oct 21.9 3118 Acetee & Heich 1777 3.5 6.5 6 Agr Lei 15 1513 2.5 Mar Oct 7.9 3118 Acetee & Heich 1777 3.5 6.5 6 Agr Lei 15 1513 2.5 Mar Oct 7.9 3118 Acetee & Heich 1777 3.5 6.5 6 Agr Lei 15 1513 2.5 Mar Oct 7.9 3118 Acetee & Heich 1778 3.5 6.5 6 Agr Lei 15 1513 2.5 46.0 2.3 Mar Lei 15 1513 2.5 46.0 2.3 Mar Lei 1513 2.5 46.0 2.3 Mar Lei 1513 2.5 46.0 2.3 Mar Lei 1513 2.5 46.0 2.5	Size Burill J 224 37 13.25 12 Bisy Nov 21.9 4197 Gallazon Rei Surge II 83 -2.4 8.25 \$\int \text{Apr Sep 13.7 4130 Breathfat }	iod
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Caming (N)	Price chinge net cox. paid vd line Caris Lett. 84st 10.5 3.9 1.3 Jej Jan 4.1 2015 67 11.7 20.10 1491 Caris d 483 2.5 11.5 1.3 Hay Nov 19.10 2103 1488 14.2 4.5 2.1 Jan Ang 20.11 16.02 A NAV 483 2.5 13.9 11.5 1.8 New New 19.10 2108 A	American Geo \$ \$2674 -2.0 052.06 -fit-leSeDe 3.11 1595 Hong Kong American int \$ \$747a -4.6 056c -fit-leSeDe 1.12 5332 Warrants_	
BANKS Crots	41'2 78 11'84 1517 Dalepak 383 1.9 8.0 1.7 Apr Oct 24.8 2303 ( 385 2.5 4.8 4.8 May Oct 24.8 1321 Daleph 30 485 1.7 19.5 1.5 Jan Joi 19.10 2304 (	Baltica Oliv	វ័
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10   10   10   10   10   10   10   10	375 1.9 7.0 2.6 Jan Sep 16.11 2438 Perioss 99 16.5 4.3 2.7 Get May 21.9 3633 50 16.3 2.35 1.1 Apr Oct 7.9 2441 Right 90 282 -5 13.36 Jan	Ministry Div Dividende Last Clay Relational Dividende Last Clay Relational Dividende Last Clay Relational Dividende Maries Poca ch'inge net coe, petit xel line Zono Dividende Company	ment
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Oltoman	19 4'90 2822 Uniferer 4'70 1009 -2.3 18.94 2.7 Dec May 16.11 4347 pt 2742 -2.5 9.5 1.8 Mar Det 4.1 2876 Uniferer N/ A 297 -4.10739% 3.0 May Dec 7.5 4390 A 144 8.3 10.9 1.0 May Nov 7.9 2041 United Stouth 37 4.5 15.3 17.7 Jan Lef 1910 4370 Tr	nudential (C) 255 -1.2 (1.0 (1.0 New May 21.9 223) Lew Outburners etage	N 545 -5 17.75 May Oct 123.8 24.8 3137 
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Semple o report — 6 77 4.4 4.0 — report and 21.9 seets to report and 19 — 0.4 — Apr 11.1 2227 Concentric — 55 hours (A) — 41 13.9 1.3 — Jen 9.12 Serie Try — 42 30 — 60 1.0 Hery Col. 21.9 425 Debate (1 — 54 Shelfed Insuls — 125 13.5 8.4 0.7 May Nov 5.10 4640 Whypotheri — 66 — 3.8 1.5 Jan Oct 30.11 4387 Debate (1 — 54 Shelfed Insuls — 121 3.4 4 0.39 68 1 Dec Jen 19 10 4620 Whypotheri — 68 — 3.8 1.5 Jan Oct 30.11 4387 Debate (1 — 54 Shelfed Insuls — 121 3.4 4 0.39 68 1 Dec Jen 19 10 4620 Whypotheri — 68 — 3.8 1.5 Jan Oct 30.11 4387 Debate (1 — 54 Shelfed Insuls — 121 3.4 4 0.39 68 1 Dec Jen 19 10 4620 Whypotheri — 58 — 38 — 38 — 38 — 38 — 38 — 38 — 38	50 84 1.0 3.8 0es 16.11 2218 Barr 8 WAT A	and Serific Co's	130 1.1 2.1 2.2 1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2 1.2

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SECONDAY JANUARY H 25 FINANCIAL TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 11 1993 LONDON SHARE SERVICE MINES - Cont. TELEPHONE NETWORKS PACKAGING, PAPER & PRINTING - Cont. Description Plat 1.8 Nov May 2.10 2322 × Feb Aug 1.7 -1.3 Mar Oct 24.2 2679 28% 8.2 039% 1.8 Nov May 2.10 2322 312 4.0 0200c x Feb Aug 1.7 -200 -1.9 0170c 1.3 Mar Oct 24.2 297 205 -1.8 0135c 1.3 Mar Oct 14.10 -205 -13.0 - - 3523 29% 1.7 0230c 1.4 Mar Sep 30.9 3830 ## A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE 2124 9.1 6345c 2.1 Jan Aug 17.12 1808 1 2124 9.1 6345c 2.1 Jan Aug 17.12 1808 1 2187 2.3 0375c 1.0 Jan Dec 28.10 1809 1 2 118 - - 4 739 3539 1 2 2 3 655 - 4 618.0 2.5 Dec Jan 18.10 1636 1 3 2 4 5 5 Dec Jan 18.10 1636 113.3 Q.1 — Apr Got 13.7 3165 Coccess

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5½ 4.8 \_\_\_ \_ \_ 1418
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8 \_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ 2773 | 145 | 4.3 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.7 583 -28 (1124c Oc.ladq.);
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■ "Tap Stock"

I trigital stock increased or resumed

I tra-ine is non-marketimb on application.

□ Equires or response to end of the stock increased or resumed

I tra-ine is non-marketimb on application.

□ Equires or response to end of the stock includes permitted under note SES(4)(2)

■ The arrangement in the stock includes and company not subjected to same degree of regulation as Stock and according.

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■ Price at the of suspension

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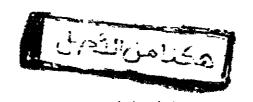
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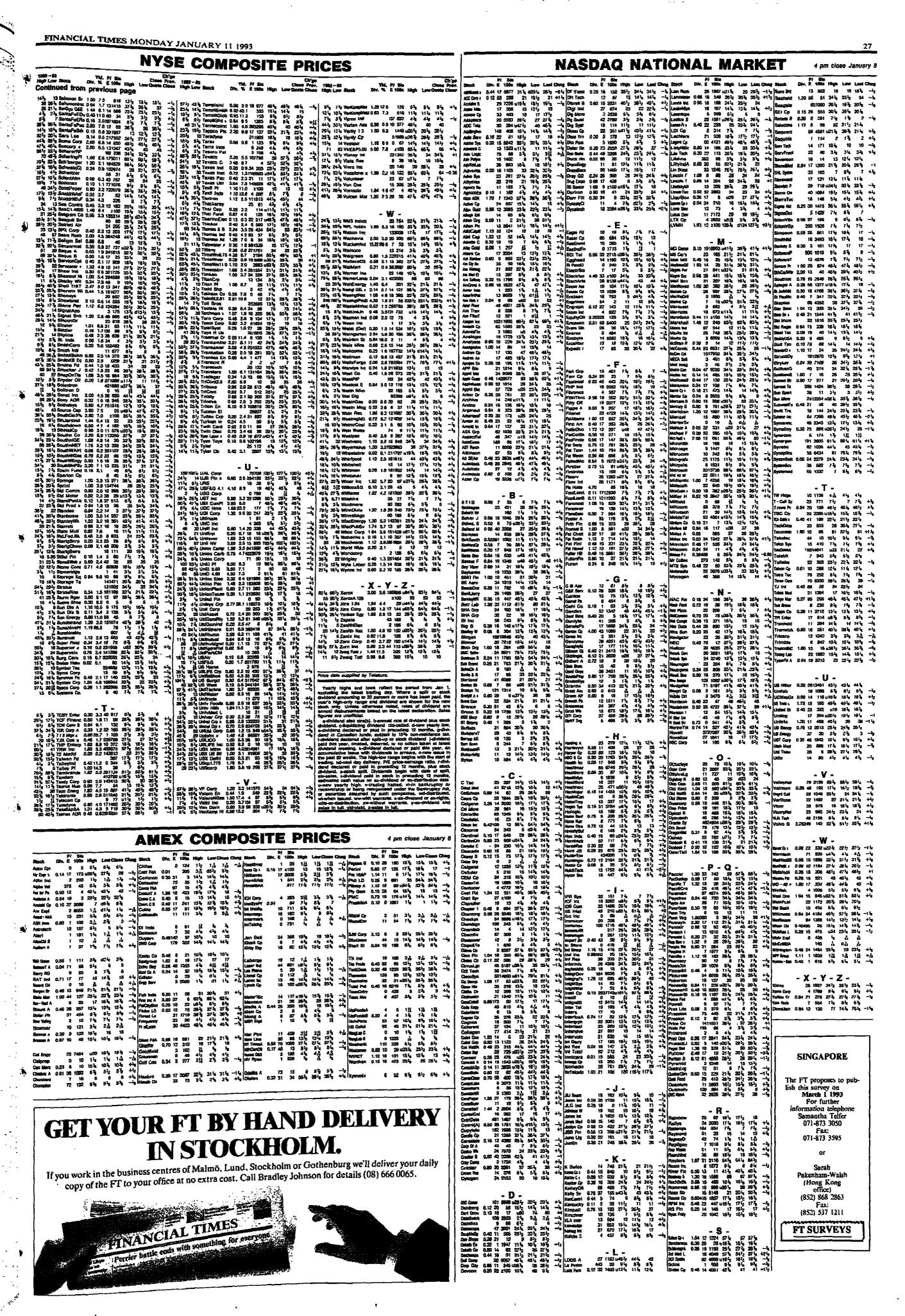
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A CONTROL OF THE CONT

# Inside job will make a change

Derek Lewis, director-general of the UK prison service, speaks to **Raymond Snoddy** and **John Willman** 

man of the UK Gold satellite television channel, was chosen as new director-general of the prison service, no one could resist referring to Porridge, the classic prison comedy, as the link between two worlds.

For Lewis was the man who had set up the channel, which is based on repeats of BBC and Thames Television programmes, including Porridge.

The appointment sounded like fiction itself. Could a television executive be taking on one of Britain's most intractable social problems without having visited a court or a prison; a man whose only knowledge of the subject came from the media?

In fact, Lewis had only been a television executive for a few months - successfully taking on the job of raising £35m for UK Gold and getting it on air two months ago, before planning to move on.

For 14 years he was a senior executive at the Ford motor company, then in charge of planning at the Imperial Group in pre-Hanson days, before becoming finance director and later chief executive of the Granada Group in charge of motorway services, television rental, computer services and Granada Television.

But even so, how did someone who knew about cars, motorway service stations. rental, computer services and television, but not prisons, become director-general of the prison service and the nome secretary's chief adviser on prison matters?

The call came in August. when Lewis was still struggling to raise the finance for the new television channel. It came from Saxton Bamfylde, the headhunter which specialises in persuading privatesector executives to take large pay cuts to work in the public sector. "More clout, less dosh," is how the company puts it.

He was asked the usual question: did he know anyone, "and by the way, you wouldn't be interested yourself?"

'My initial reaction was that I wasn't sure if it was the right job at all. It sounded like the proverbial bed of nails. But I

trumpetings of the

ment of the single

market, this does not really seem a very cheerful new year

for Europe. The European

Community's programme for

monetary union is being swept

on to the rocks by speculative forces; the continent is gripped

in a seemingly interminable

recession which in some cases

may yet be deepening; many of

its governments are in trouble. and most of them deserve to

be; and then there is the bar-

If the Maastricht treaty

seemed a year ago to offer a bold and ambitious vision of

the future, the excitement it

generated seems now to have

been destroyed by the

The mood of Euro-pessimism

is not shared by Mr Lester

Thurow, one of America's lead-

ing celebrity economists. Mr

Thurow is not merely con-

vinced that European integra-tion is unstoppable, and will

lead inevitably to monetary

union by the end of this decade; he also expects that Europe will be the world's

dominant economic force in

the 21st century.

Behind these predictions, set out in his latest book\*, there is

one fundamental assumption.

The world will comprise three

economic blocs based on man-

aged trade, centred on Europe, America and Japan, rather

than a completely open global

economy. These three blocs

will be pitted against each

other in a strategic economic

likely to come out on top.

struggle in which Europe is

Perhaps Mr Thurow extrapo-

Uruguay round is bound to

baric war in Yugoslavia.

onslaught of reality.

hen Derek who will be paid £125,000 a year, plus a performance-related honus said to be 35 per cent of his salary. It is vastly more than the salary of his predecessor, the much admired Joe Pilling, but still represents a significant pay cut.

The main question that pre occupied him was why he should want a job that, no mat-ter what he did, would probably leave everyone unhappy the public, which alternates between concern about secu-rity and inhuman treatment of prisoners; and the politicians, who wish the problem did not

"What persuaded me was that there was an opportunity to effect real change - not to get everybody absolutely happy with what the prison service is doing, but to persuade the majority of those constituencies that it was much better than it had been a few years before," he says. The television executive has

been portrayed as the privatiser of the prison service the hired hit man of Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary. who met Lewis twice before the appointment. I think that is the way many people are likely to see me. It would be a misjudgment. I came to this job without a brief to implement large-scale privatisation,"

"My brief is to effect the sort of quality of improvements in the service demanded by the Woolf inquiry, which followed the 1990 Strangeways prison riot, and to deliver better value

At least the new directorenera) of the prison service – and the future chief executive, when it becomes the Prison Service Agency in April - in England and Wales has now been been in jail. Four jails to be precise. He was struck less by the banging of doors and the turning of keys than by their complexity as social institutions and the relatively positive atmosphere.

His diverse industry experience will be necessary to run a system with an annual budget of £1.5bn, responsibility for 41,000 inmates and staff of 36,000. He will be able, for example, to draw on his experience in managing operations was persuaded to go and have such as motorway catering and a talk to them," says Lewis, 46, TV rental shops, where stan-

IAN DAVIDSON

on EUROPE

fail, and that therefore Gatt is

dead. Yet even if this actual

negotiation succeeds, it is diffi-

cult to believe western indus-

trialised countries can indefi-

nitely accept the political

consequences of a totally free

global market, either for their

domestic wage levels or for

The key to victory in the

coming three-way economic

struggle, according to Mr Thu-row, will be the ability to adapt

to the new challenges. Here is

the unexpected twist in his

analysis. Japan and America

both have enormous strategic

strengths, but both of them

will have difficulty in adapting.

Europe will have the best

chance of coming out on top.

he thinks, because it will not

be able to avoid making the

America must reduce con-

sumption and the deficit and

increase investment; it must

reform its abysmal school sys-tem; and it must downgrade

financial short-termism and

upgrade concern for human

export-led growth to domestic

led growth (because the rest of

the world will compel it) and

accept all the consequences of a regional market in the

resources.

their social security systems.



#### 'An opportunity to effect real change'

and maintained across a geographically dispersed network. In such circumstances, managerial autonomy within an agreed framework is the key to service quality, according to Lewis. He plans to continue the moves towards autonomy in the prison service, giving the people running the prisons more responsibility. Greater autonomy over recruitment and purchase of catering pro-

#### PERSONAL FILE

duce are likely.

1946 Born Nottingham. 1947 Educated Wrekin College, Wellington, Queen's College, Cambridge, and London

Ford Motor Co. 1978 Director of finance, Ford Europe. 1982 Director of corporate

Business School.

rial Group. 1984 Granada finance direc-1988 Granada chief executive.

1991 Resigned from Granada. 1992 Developed and launched UK Gold. In December, appointed director-general of the prison ser-

He will also be in charge of the programme to contract out aspects of prison management two establishments are already managed by private companies, and bids have been sought for the management of the reconstitucted Strangeways. He sees this as a tool for improving the service rather than an end in itself. He notes that this has already produced improvements in the difficult industrial relations environ-

The "nothing can be done" argument about prisons and prisoners, he believes, is giving

movement and investment.
The European Community

has two imperatives: it must go

to the end of the logic of eco-

nomic integration; and it must

embrace the emerging market economies of eastern Europe.

be very difficult to meet. The

key difference, in Mr Thurow's

analysis, is that Europe cannot

In the end the Europeans

avoid doing what is required.

will do what is necessary to

complete the integration of the

countries now in the Common

Market ... not because they

are wise and far-sighted, but

because they have no choice... History and human

nature tell us that it will be far

easier for the Americans and

the Japanese to avoid doing

what they must do if they are

It is easy to predict that

America will procrastinate before its hard choices, because that is what America

has been doing for several

decades. Japan, on the other

hand, has proved remarkably

dynamic and adaptable, and

may continue so. Where Mr Thurow is most provocative is

in his assumption that the

European Community must

pursue the right strategy,

of integration and enlarge-

ment, because it has no alter-

A Euro-pessimist might fe

events were pointing in the opposite direction. The Maas-

tricht treaty has been voided of

much of its significance, the

plan for monetary union looks

exchange rate mechanism is in

danger of being destroyed by

the markets. Negotiations to

admit new members from Efta

will start soon, but the benefits

native.

Each of these challenges will

Pacific, including freedom of of a larger market could easily

can be achieved, particularly in tackling drug addiction and easing the difficult transition from captivity to freedom.

Much can be done, he believes, to alleviate prisoners' main concerns, such as improving visiting arrangements and facilities, allowing them to serve sentences closer to families, ending slopping out (in the prisons where there are currently no proper toilets) and providing more varied menus within tight budgets.

His priorities will include encouraging greater responsibility and accountability, determining the role of the private sector and, in answer to one of the findings of the Woolf report, providing more visible At the end of his three-year

term, which could be extended to five years, he would like to have implemented the main recommendations of the Woolf report, and have done something to reduce reoffending rates from the current 70 per cent. He also hopes to have changed the prison service to such an extent that people will visit the UK to see how prisons should be run.

His success will depend as much on his function as policy adviser to the home secretary who will inevitably be looking for results – as on his management skills. He acknowledges that there are severe political and financial pressures on the service. But he says that steering through those will the same as managing a public company through external events such as take overs, new legislation and changes in the marketplace.

Challenges are important to Lewis: he left Ford because he did not want to be on a "single track in a single industry". He left Granada because he had The unstoppable Europe

be offset by decision-making

A Euro-optimist could make

a different analysis. The

storms that have been batter-

ing the European Monetary

System are essentially salu-

tary, because the system in its

present half-way house is

inherently unstable, and the

financial and political stress

thrown up by market pressures

merely prove the need to

If the ERM does fall apart,

the member states could revert

to flotation. But the case for

eventual European monetary

union (Emu), as a component

part of the single market,

remains as strong as ever.

Strengthening the system so as

to make it less vulnerable will

not be easy; but it is likely to be less unattractive to the core

states than free floating or

exchange controls.

Even if Emu were put on a

back burner, that would not

invalidate the much broader

array of convergent interests

that have driven the European

movement for the past 40

years. Each phase of integra-tion will be politically more stressful than the last. But

since it is virtually impossible

to imagine the core states

reverse, one must suppose they

will gradually solve the diffi-

On one point Mr Thurow must be right: the Europeans

may go forward; or they may

go backward; what they cannot do is avoid making choices.

culties of going forward.

lishing. £9.99, 336 pages.

wanting to put the process into

dards of service have to be set way to a feeling that quite a bit little choice: he became what many saw as a scapegoat for the anxiety over the future of the group caused by worries over its investment in British Sky Broadcasting and the loss-

making move into computer

services, both now seen as

money spinners for the com-

He sees his departure from Granada as one of the vicissitudes of business life. (His compensation, at £590,000, was the sort of sum his new charges would rob a bank for.) As a result of the Granada setback, Lewis has had "one very exciting job running a TV station and, second, the oppor-

tunity to do this [run the prison service]". And, yes, he does like watching Porridge.

In real life, however, he will not only have to deal with Fletcher, the prisoner, and Mr McKay, the prison officer. There is also Mr Clarke, the politician, and dealing with him could be the most difficult task of all.

# The solution is value added tax

t will be fascinating to see how Mr Bill Clinton copes with America's fiscal mess. President George Bush's final budget projects deficits of \$300bn or more for as far as the eye can see. And these figures assume a freeze on discretionary spending in cash terms from 1995 onwards. On more credible assumptions, the deficit could soar to more than \$400bn towards the end of the decade. The US thus faces a gaping - and seemingly per-manent - hole in the budget, equivalent to perhaps 45 per cent of national income.

A gap of this size means that Mr Clinton cannot possibly honour all of his campaign pledges. He cannot apply a short-term economic stimulus, halve the budget deficit over four years, sharply increase federal investment spending, and reduce the tax burden on middle-income families.

With economic recovery apparently more firmly estabished and retailers basking after a bumper Christmas, you might think the short-term stimulus would be dropped without hesitation. But Mr Clinton's advisers are aware that consumption cannot run ahead of incomes indefinitely. They were doubtless disconcerted by Friday's employment figures, which confirmed how pitifully few jobs are being created. Employment is such a delicate issue that Mr Clinton may feel he has to cover himself with a modest stimulus package - including an investment tax credit and accelerated infrastructure projects even if the annual cost is

The longer-term imbalances are far trickier to handle, in part because Mr Bush indulged in his own, unsung brand of Clintonomics. In the past four fiscal years, federal spending has risen nearly 30 per cent, about twice as fast as revenues. This surge is not fully explained by growth of "enti-tlements" such as federal healthcare (up 63 per cent). Mr Bush also spent generously on programmes dear to Mr Clinton's heart. Spending on education and infrastructure, for

**JOTTER PAD** 

restricted to only about \$20bn.



on AMERICA

example, have gone up by 38 per cent and 34 per cent. spectively. This is far ahead of broad price indices which have risen by about 15 per cent over the four years.

Mr Clinton will thus be forced to scale back plans for

additional spending. This will be no bad thing. Infrastructure experts are already telling him that, with Mr Bush's transport will be difficult to spend the extra \$20bn a year promised during the campaign. But even if Mr Clinton scales back his spending plans, the fiscal dilemma remains. Given the range of social problems he hopes to tackle, he seems certain to spend more than allowed for in the final Bush budget. And he will not cover the excess by taxing the top 2 per cent more heavily.

Moreover, Mr Clinton will not quickly be able to announce a scheme for capping the fastest growing portion of the budget - entitlements such as federal health spending. This will be feasible only after lengthy negotiations on national healthcare reform are completed, which may take a vear or more. And the fact that Mr Clinton wants greatly to expand healthcare coverage means that the savings from new spending controls may prove disappointing.

He thus seems to be left with only two courses of action. The soft option is to argue that Mr Bush left the shop in such disorder that a big reduction in the deficit over four years is. regrettably, impossible. A populist Mr Clinton would promise to hold the deficit at about the current level and explain that

tive to national income.

If the cyclical recovery takes hold, the economy may well grow at an annual rate of near 3 per cent over the next four years, which would bring down the jobless rate, considerably brightening the public mood.

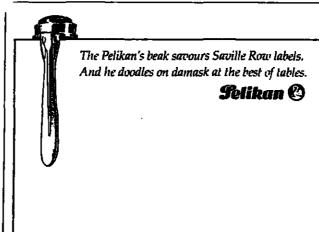
With prosperity seemingly restored, voters would proba-bly forgive Mr Clinton for fail-ing to reduce the deficit. But such a populist manoeuvre would ignore the crying need to raise the US national savings rate and be a cruel deception in the longer term. If Mr Clinton puts the nation's economic health first, he will not delay budgetary action yet

Pushing ahead with the tough reforms needed to reduce the growth of entitle ent spending is essential But Mr Clinton also needs to build public support for new sources of federal revenue. There is obviously a strong case for a higher tax on gasoline but the political opposition to a sizeable increase would be intense. It would be easier to raise taxes a little on a wide range of commodities.

The bold course would be to establish a bipartisan commisnational value added tax A broad VAT levied at about 7 per cent would raise more than \$150hn, enough to make a real dent in the deficit.

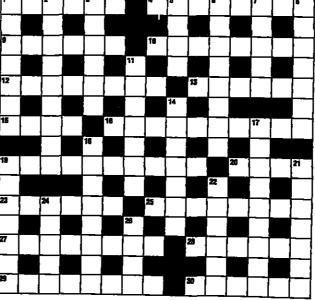
Enactment of a VAT world the relative share of consumption taxes, and belatedly move the US into line with other industrial countries, none of which could finance social programmes without the tax. It would be a levy on spending rather than income and thus minimise the disincentive effects on capital formation and growth.

Deficit hawks on Wall Street would be delighted: the mere announcement of a VAT commission might slice half a point off long bond yields. And come 1996, Mr Clinton could claim to have dealt in states manlike fashion with the most pressing economic problem of



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ACROSS 1 Rods we developed for the diviner (6) 4 Andy's one to provide a noncommittal answer (3,3,2)
9 Corrects the final part in a

script (6)

10 Given, and ideally shouldn't be paid back (8)

12 Papers including long-range forecasts (8)

13 Head branch (6)

13 Hean branch (4)
15 High time for a Western (4)
16 Agree to keep in touch (10)
19 Dominant reason for a horse being tired? (10) 20 Sort of brake on the turnta-

tole? (4)

23 I set about some fish (5)
25 Held firmly and beaten (8)
26 Feelings shown by people put into some distress (8)
27 Realings way (2,7)
28 Abit vulgar, perhaps? (8)
28 Abit vulgar, perhaps? (8)
29 Abit vulgar, perhaps? (8)
21 New dance in church shows rhythm (7)

28 Almost lose sight of the sprite 22 (6) 29 A bob with the bookmaker goes very quickly (s)
30 Decline to make a further

26 \*Head to Head: the Coming Eco nomic Battle Among Japan, grant? (6) Europe and America by Leste Thurow. Nicholas Brealey Pub-

I Dad, after commercial, seen in study, expressionless (4-3) 2 Miserable? Cheer up! (9) 3 Charm, finish and musical

ability (6)
5 Vessel missed entrance to channel (4) 6 Surprise shots in a molee (8)
7 Peg possibly owed a pound (5) 8 Given command (7) 11 Inferior articles that don't last long (7)
14 Stone jar with nickel lining

(7) 17 Suddenly smile upon in a strange way (2,7)

rhythm (7)
22 Promise not freely given (6)
24 Affair of one such as Othello, say (5) Kind of bender the van-

The solution to last Saturday's prize puzzle will be published with names of winners on Saturday January 23.



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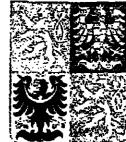
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# THE CZECH REPUBLIC



A supplement sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in association with Bohemiae Foundation

# "The opportunity is here for everyone"

Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus discusses his Government's future plans.

Question: What role do you see the new Czech Republic honour and follow them.

Answer: The Czech Republic will be a democratic, normally-functioning market economy and wants to be an equal partner with the rest of Europe. We do not divide Europe into Western, Central and Eastern Europe; we don't live with the old myths about making bridges between The West and The East. Definitely not.

Question: When do you expect to conclude renegotiations about the Association Agreement with the European Commission?

Answer: The Association Agreement is an interim measure and our interest is in a more substantial agreement; so I hope that we will get it signed as soon as possible. What I am aiming for is real integration with Europe, not just a temporary step.

Question: What, in your view, are the economic and social priorities for the Czech Republic?

Answer: I would argue that we have 'crossed the Rubicon' from an old social economic system to a new one; we are already a completely pluralistic democracy; and a free market economy. In fact our economy is at a level of liberalisation and deregulation which is comparable with most Western European countries. In this respect, our task now is to compete. We have already carried out the most spectacular and dramatic changes; by this I mean price and trade liberalisation. Our aims are to function normally, to finish privatisation and to start economic growth again.

Question: Are there still obstacles in the split with the Slovak Republic which you have yet to surmount. Answer: The split is definitely a complicated issue; I

don't think there has ever been a comparable model as to what is going on in this country at the moment. For instance, the property question sums up the divorce issue par excellence and there will inevitably be doubts, disputes and complications for some time to come. But in principle, we have already signed all the relevant treaties between the Czech and Slovak Republics.

How long we take to divide one piece of property or another will probably capture the headlines both here and abroad-but this will not affect the everyday functioning of

The real issue is to minimise the loss of trade between the two countries, because we both suffered dramatically with the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the Comecon area; the consequent loss of output and employment was disastrous. As a first step, we have already signed a treaty on a customs' union.

Question: Do you expect the two republics to stay close in

Answer: We have signed a really wide ranging network

An Inflation Rate of 6%

- a real achievement

(January - June 1992)

Question: As the social consequences of your free market policies take effect, do you think the electorate will continue its enthusiasm to date?

**Answer:** I don't think there is a better social policy than a vigorous and functioning market economy. Any attempts to create a social network on a non-functioning economic system are a nonsense.

Question: There has been a low inflation rate of late and a stable Czech Crown. Do you see any problems ahead? Answer: Compared with the other newly liberated

Central and Eastern European countries, our rate of inflation speaks for itself (see chart)-6% is a real achievement. Our annual inflation rate is therefore unique amongst post-communist countries and indeed is more comparable with Western economies than with Eastern Europe. It is something we must tell the world about.

On the currency issue after separation, we have suggested a three stage plan. Currency union is just the first stage-we plan to have a common currency of Czechoslovak Crowns (CSKS)-and the second stage is a technical conversion of the Crown into two independent currencies. When I say technical, there will be a parity of 1:1-and the third stage will be the floating of the separate currencies.

The question is not how long will we be able to keep a common currency. There is no timetable because it depends on the quality and style of the economic policies of the two republics. I disagree with those commentators who think that Slovak economic policy will dramatically change after the separation of the two countries. I suspect it will be much more pro-market than is generally forecast.

Question: Have you plans to speed up the privatisation

Answer: Privatisation is a major social and multidimensional process. It cannot be speeded up. It is something which has its own dynamics and there are so many dimensions to it that I don't believe it can be

Question: In attracting foreign investment, are you going to be offering special incentives?

Answer: Artificial incentives would be inconsistent with our free market principles. Countries which are against the free market usually offer special privileges which create islands of prosperity, but this leaves the rest of industry at a disadvantage. Having lived for several decades in a crazy and inefficient world of irrational exceptions, we know this only too well.

Our main platform is to create level economic playing fields and I don't see any reason to lobby foreign firms over and above domestic businesses. On the other hand, I see real and substantial reasons for foreign investors to come to the Czech republic-this is a very liberal economic area with a stable macro-economic framework and a strong currency. We also have the advantage of a highly trained and educated workforce with low unit labour costs. These, I believe, are genuine long term incentives.

Question: Germany has made the running to date on inward investment. Are you going to make special efforts to attract other countries?

Answer: The fact that there are more German investors in this country to date is merely a question of geographical proximity. It is much easier for them to drive 50 miles by car than to fly 10,000 miles across the world. I am not frustrated by the fact that there are more German investors than from other countries. If you exclude their two or three biggest investments and compare the balance, the difference is not that dramatic. If we have a good business as far as investors are concerned, then the opportunity is there for everyone.

It seems to me that the Czech Republic is now visible to the world after four decades of lying behind the iron curtain. We try to present ourselves as attractively as possible but that does not include selling ourselves cheaply. When I review books, I sometimes find myself criticising the author for mixing up the short term and long term dimensions of an issue-short run gains may well be long term losses and therefore we are wary of economic myopia.

Interview by Graeme Howes

# Vaclav Klaus: "I don't think there is a better social policy than a vigorous and

functioning market economy."

#### A democratic Parliament now decides

THE Czech state has over one thousand years of tradition, and the newly created Czech Republic has close ties to the two democratic periods of this century. The first was the interwar Czechoslovakia of President Masaryk, an oasis of democracy and prosperity in the turbulent Europe of the time. Although the political spectrum then was fragmented, from 1918 to democracy in Czechoslovakia was among the most stable in Europe.

The second decisive period for the establishment of the Czech Republic was the three years after November 1989. In Bohemia, the democratic system was quickly re-established and two parliamentary elections were held, in which an exceptionally high number of voters participated. By the end of 1989, the dissident playwright Vaclav Havel had been elected president and a new government, primarily comprised of representatives from the Civic Forum, had been formed. This movement, which deserved most of the credit for the fall of communism, gained a majority in the two chambers of the Federal Assembly and in the Czech National Council in the 1990 elections.

The new government announced a sweeping program of privatisation and restitution (the return of property to the original owners), the lustrace, or screening, law was passed to remove representatives of the former regime from public life, and the building of the legal state began. The main initiator of economic reforms and then finance minister Vaclav Klaus founded the Civic Democratic Party in 1991. This party contributed most of all to the stabilisation and clarification of the political

spectrum. The June 1992 elections made clear the different direction of the two parts of Czechoslovakia and the as well as bringing their quest for prosperity.

impossibility of maintaining the federation. The winner of the elections in the Czech Republic was a democratic, conservative coalition, and in the Slovak Republic, parties emphasising emancipation were victorious. The Czech government is now made up of a coalition of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and the Christian Democratic Party (KDS), who hold 38 per cent of the seats in parliament, the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), and the Christian and Democratic Union -Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL), each holding seven per cent.

Premier Vaclav Klaus' ODS holds the strongest position of all conservative parties in central and eastern Europe and has made its main impact in the economsubsidiary transfer of deciindividual political styles to bear upon Government policy through their respective ministries and portfolios.

The strongest opposition party is the Left Bloc (communist), with 17% of the seats. Other opposition parties include the Social Democrats, the Liberal Social Union - which is a coalition of Agricultural, Green and Socialist parties Moravian HSD-SMS and the Republicans. Each hold fewer than 10% of the seats, and the last two barely exceed the 5% Parliamentary limit.

The formation of the Czech Republic is irreversible. It is now a parliamentary democracy with authority balanced between the executive and legislative branches, with a president and an independent judiciaic sphere. All the coalition ry and treasury. The governparties support the policies ing coalition maintains that of economic reform and of it is prepared to take further steps towards the reinforcesion making to lower levels ment of democracy in the

#### Four tumultuous years of change Premier Adamec estab- and Velehrad.

· A peaceful demonstration by students and Prague residents was held on November 17, 1989 - the fiftieth anniversary of the funeral of medical student Jan Opletal, who was killed by the Nazis. Flowers, candies, and calls of "we don't want violence," faced a brutal attack by the Interior Ministry's emergency regiment and other police forces. That night, plans for a protest strike spread among the students who were joined by actors and

• The Civic Forum was formed two days later from a core of Charter 77 signatories, activists and other civic initiatives. Hundreds of thousands of Prague residents demonstrated daily for non-violence, human rights and free elections. giving the Civic Forum a mandate to negotiate with the government.

 By November 27, a general nationwide strike was announced, the Jakes leadership of the ruling Communist Party fell and the government of Premier Adamec was forced to make concessions.

By the end of the month, the article endowing the Communist Party with the leading role in the state was removed from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic's constitution.

In early December, when

lished a government of fifteen Communists and five non-Communists, the public responded with more demonstrations. Students and artists continued their strike and the Civic Forum led further discussions.

• By the Day of Human Rights, the "15:5" government was replaced by the National Understanding government, set up by Marian Calfa following Adamec's demise. Having named the new

government, President Gustav Husak resigned, and on December 29 the Federal Assembly, chaired since the day before by Alexander Dubcek, unanimously elected Vaclav Havel president.

• With the election of new deputies to the Federal Assembly, the Communist Party lost its majority in the main legislative body. February 1990 saw the State Security Agency abolished and the start of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Czechoslovakia began.

• In April, the Federal Assembly accepted the new name - Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

• President Havel's speech to the United States Congress strengthened Czechoslovakia's international reputation and the Czech public welcomed Pope John Paul II to Prague

 A massive 97 per cent of Czechoslovak voters participated in the June elections which represented an unofficial referendum over Czechoslovakia's future – for Federal Assembly representatives and the national councils. The Civic Forum and Public against violence in Slovakia won a majority of votes.

 Marian Calfa, Petr Pithart and Vladimir Meciar became the new premiers and Vaclav Havel was reelected president of the republic.

1991

 In January, the executive committee of COMECON. including Czechoslovakia, agreed to dissolve the organisation. This decision was officially ratified in Budapest the next month. Also in February, Czechoslovakia was granted membership in the Council of Europe, and with Poland and Hungary signed the Visegrad declaration on cooperation.

Czechoslovakia took part in the Warsaw session of Warsaw Pact member countries, when a protocol cancelling the validity of all military arrangements. organs and structures was signed. The final dissolution of the Warsaw Pact was declared at the member countries' heads of state

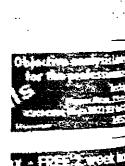
• The Civic Forum split into the Civic Democratic Party, the Civic Movement and the Civic Democratic Alliance and together with a number of other political parties. campaigned for votes in the June elections.

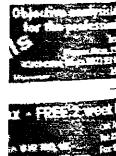
• The Civic Democrats emerged as the victors of the June elections in the Czech Republic while the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia won in the Slovak Republic followed by the Democratic Left.

• Discussions over the country's legislative organisation in August, headed by representatives of the governing parties, led to a jointly accepted agenda to divide Czechoslovakia. The date of the federation's dissolution 1 January 1993 was accept-

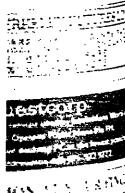
· At the end of November, the Federal Assembly passed a law facilitating the federation's dissolution, which provided the framework for the common Czech and Slovak state to end. It also granted the conditions for the development of future good relations between the Republics.

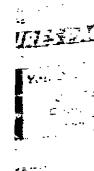
 The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic was duly dissolved on 31 December and the Czech and Slovak republics stepped independently upon the world stage on I January.



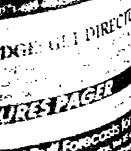












# Declaration of the Czech National Council to all Parliaments and Nations of the World.

The Czech National Council, being a freely elected legislative body of the Czech Republic and mindful of a millennium-long tradition of the Czech State, makes the following declaration:

- accordance with its constitutional law and within the legal framework of the Bill of Dissolution of the CSFR adopted by the Parliament of the CSFR and as a successor state following the dissolution of the CSFR, will become an independent and sovereign
- In the tradition of the democracies of the world, the Czech Republic will, in its internal and foreign policies and within the context of its laws. unconditionally honour the human rights and the basic freedom of the individual which create the basis for freedom, justice and peace.
- The Czech Republic declares its intent to become a member of the Council of Europe as soon as possible and to become a contractual party of the European Agreement on Human Rights. The Czech Republic will respect all laws and obligations concerning national minorities in accordance with international standards.

■ The Czech Republic as of 1 January 1993 in will act in accordance with international law and will respect the aims and principles of the UN Charter, the final Helsinki Agreement and its subsequent amendments. As one of the legal successor-states to a co-founding member of the UN, the Czech Republic reaffirms its determination to respect the principles of this organisation and, within its framework, will continue efforts to strengthen peace and security and to achieve peaceful solutions to existing conflicts as well as to aid the search for solutions to the world wide problems of mankind.

- The Czech Republic will assist in the development of cooperation in Europe aimed at creating an effective system of security. The Czech Republic will carry out all its obligations concerning the reduction of armed forces and armaments to a level adequate for defence and will support measures to strengthen multilateral and bilateral trust and
- The Czech Republic will create the political, economic, contractual and legislative conditions

membership of the main European political, economic and other organisations. The Czech Republic confirms all its obligations undertaken earlier by the CSFR in respect of the Association Agreement with the European Community and expresses its interest in a rapid transfer of the aforesaid Association Agreement to the Czech Republic.

- The Czech Republic will endeavour to extend its participation in the world economy and to seek continuous succession of membership of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, GATT and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- The Czech Republic as of 1 January 1993, in accordance with the principles and within the framework of international law, recognises the provisions and obligations of all multilateral and bilateral treaties and agreements to which the CSFR was a party on that date.
- The International relations of the Czech Republic necessary for gradual association with and for future The Czech Republic intends to establish internal and international policies.

diplomatic relations with other countries and to develop mutual relations on principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for territorial integrity and political independence and inviolability of frontiers.

- The Czech Republic will assume its share of the financial obligations of the CSFR towards third parties and international organisations in accordance with appropriate constitutional law and the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Division of the Assets of the Federation.
- The Czech Republic will pay special attention to its relations with the Slovak Republic. Agreements and treaties concluded between the respective republics will ensure bilateral co-ordination and cooperation to enhance the mutual ties between the two states and to benefit its citizens.
- The Czech Republic is obliged by its Constitution through the votes of the deputies of its legislative body to develop itself as an integral part of the community of European and world democracies and accepts this commitment as the universal aim of its:



Doc. ing. Vaclav Klaus, CSc., was born 19th June 1941 in Prague. In 1963, he completed his studies at the Prague Institute of Economics. He also studied economic sciences in Italy (1966) and in the USA (1969). Up until 1970, he conducted research at the Economics Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CAS). From 1971 to 1986, he held various positions at the State Bank of Czechoslovakia. In 1986, he started conducting research at the Prognostic Institute of the CAS. He is a member of the Mont Peterin Society and was awarded the Schumpeter Prize for Economics. In February 1991, he received an honorary Doctorate degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and in May 1991, from Suffolk University in the USA. In December 1989, he was appointed Federal Minister of Finance, and in October 1991, he was appointed Vice Premier of the federal government. In October 1990. Vaclav Klaus was elected chairman of the Civic Forum (OF). After the breakup of the Civic Forum, he became the chairman of the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) in February 1991. After the parliamentary elections in June 1992, he was appointed Premier of the government of the Czech Republic.



Ivan Kočárnik CR Government Vice Premier and Minister for Finance

Ing. Ivan Kočárnik, CSc., was born 29 November 1944, in Trebon, in the Kutna Hora district. He graduated from the Department of Currency and Financial Policy at the Prague Institute of Economics. Until 1985, he worked at the Research Institute of the Financial and Credit System. From 1985 to 1989, he was the director of the Research Department of the Federal Ministry of Finance. In January 1990, he became CSFR Deputy Minister of Finance. He is a member of the ODS, and after the parliamentary elections in June 1992, he was appointed Vice Premier of the government of the Czech Republic and the



Josef Lux CR Government Vice Premier and Minister for Agriculture

Ing. Josef Lux was born 1 February 1956 in Usti nad Orlici. He graduated from the Agricultural College in Brno. During the electoral term from 1990 to 1992, he was Vice Chairman for the Environment of the Parliament of Nations of the federal parliament. In September 1990, he was elected chairman of the zechoslovak Populist Party, and since March 1992, he has been the chairman of the Christian and Democratic Union-Czechoslovak Populist Party. After the parliamentary elections in June 1992, he was appointed Vice Premier of the Government of the Czech Republic and Minister of Agriculture



Jan Kalvoda CR Government Vice Premier

JUDr. Jan Kalvoda was born 30 October 1953, in Prague, In-1978, he graduated from the Department of Law at Charles University, in Prague. In February 1990, Jan Kalvoda was co-opted as a representative of the Czech National Council, and was elected as a member of its presidium. In the parliamentary elections of June 1990, he was elected representative of the Czech National Council, and in January 1992, he was elected vice chairman. He is the chairman of the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA). After the parliamentary elections in June 1992, he was appointed Vice Premier of the Government of the Czech

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#### Where to find the Ministries

CR Minister for Culture

PiDe Findrich Kabus

Vanistegnske namest 4

Vanistegnske namest 4

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CR Minister for Education

Youth; and Physical Education

Prof. PhD: Petra Pitha

Kapuelisske 8

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Tel: 63-03-51

CR Minister for Lation and Species

Ing. Jindrich Voltage

CR Minister for Lation and Species

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Doc. Ing. Vactav Ruines. CSC.
Nabrezi Edvanda Benese 4

125 09 Prague 1

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CR Minister for Phance
Ing. Lean Rocal mile. CSC.
Letenske 15

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CR Minister for Committee CSC. CR Minister for the Environment CR Minister for Justice CR Covernment: Vice Premier and CR Minister for Economic Policy and Development ing. Josef Last.

Tesnov P.

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IUD: Jan Kalvoda:

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Tel: 2102 CR Minister for Health

MUD: Petr Lone, CSc., Palackeho namesti 4

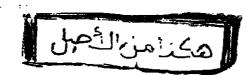
128 01 Prague I.

Tel: 2102 CR Minister for the Interior Jan Rumi.

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Tel: 335 11111 CR Government Minister Entrusted with the Direction of the Czech Office for Economic Na Porionini Pravu 1 120000 Prague 2 Competition ing Stanislav Belchradek Tel: 2(3511) CR Minister for State Control RNDr Igor Nemec Za fivalidovico 144 186 22 Prague 8 Czechinvesi The Czech Agency for Poreign-Investment CR Minister for the Administration of National Property and its Privatization ing Jiri Skalicky Senovazne damesti 32 11015 Prague 1 Tel: 285 2528 Pax: 285 435 110 00 Prague 1 Tel: 236 2065



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# THE CZECH REPUBLIC

#### A country whose history is woven into the fabric of Europe...

JUST 10 days ago on 1 January, 1993, a new country - the Czech Republic made its debut on the European political stage.

But can this really be said to be the appearance of a new state, or merely the rebirth of a country of wellknown European culture and history? Both statements would appear to be

The average European has preconceived ideas about Czechoslovakia: an independent state of Czechs and Slovaks established after the Austro-Hungarian Empire's disintegration at the end of the World War. Czechoslovakia has been a political entity for 74 years, but in that time many have forgotten that the country

Good King Wenceslas, the King of Bohemia, has come down in English Christmas folklore and Danish children sing about the the Czech princess, Queen Dagmar.

The French and English know the story of the heroic death of the Czech king John at the battle of Crecy: and everyone knows the names Dvorak, Smetana, Janacek, and Martinu, who rank among the greatest European composers.

The Czech lands' central location in Europe led to an interesting paradox in its history. Situated at the very edge of the two major European centres - Rome and Byzantium - they were heavily influenced by these remarkable cultures, but grew in strength through

built on the Celtic settlement which had blossomed there during the first millenium. In the second half of the ninth century, the Thessalonian missionary brothers Cyril and Methodius arrived and standardised a system of writing Slavic languages.

The history of the Czech

lands begins with the rule of Prince Wenceslas the saint. Before Wenceslas, history disappears into the mythological legends of the first Czech dynasty, the Premyslids. Such mythology bears witness to both the age and the independence of Czech culture, because it reveals the earliest unadulterated condition of the culture: its historical ideal.

Gradually, the Czech state

Poland, Austria and Hungary. Silver ore, mined in Kutna Hora, increased the kingdom's power. The silver groschen, minted under the last Premyslids. was accepted as a currency throughout Europe. This blossoming, was brought to an end, however, by the murder of the last king of the dynasty in 1306 and the marriage of the Premyslid princess Elizabeth to the ambitious John of Luxembourg, whose reign proved an unhappy one for the Czech lands.

 The decline did not last long, however, John's son, the Czech King Charles who was also crowned Charles IV as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire led the Czech lands to the height of their glory. Under Charles' rule, Prague became the most beautiful gothic city. A university comparable to Oxford, the Sorbonne and Bologna was founded. Unfortunately, all that remains of Charles' monumental works is the university and beautiful gothic buildings throughout Bohemia. All else - wealth, power, and influence - fell apart during the two decades of the religious Hussite wars which herald-

ed the Reformation. King George Podebrady, elected from the domestic nobility, brought the kingdom out of the ruins of civil war and saved it from its more influential neighbours. George also originated a supranational system to preserve peace. It was, for its time, an unthinkably modern concept of the peaceful solution to disputes and of mutual opposition to the growing threat of the Ottoman Empire.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Czech lands were joined through marriage, first to Hungary during the reign of the Jagellonian dynasty, and then to Austria through the Hapsburgs.

Hapsburg attempts to rule Bohemia absolutely and renew Catholicism in Bohemia created conflict. between the Czech nobility and the Emperor at the

spiritual and cultural heritage, traditional beginning of the 17th centuofficial language, margin-

Vaclay Havel: a viewpoint

Vaclav Havel is a founding spokesman of Charter 77 - the Czech human rights organisation. In 1979 he was jailed by the Communist government for four and a half years. He helped found the Civic Forum and served as

the country's President from December 1989 until July

44Bohemia is a country in the centre of Europe. Since

the ancient times mountain ranges by which it is

encircled have formed its natural borders. Together

with the neighbouring Moravia and Silesia it

constituted for a thousand years an important state of

central Europe, first a principality, later a kingdom,

which was called the Lands of the Czech Crown, As a

result of historical developments in the 16th and 17th

centuries, that state became part of the Austrian

empire. After World War I it united with Slovakia,

which had until then been a part of the Hungarian

Lands, to form an independent Czechoslovak

Republic. This republic, which rid itself of a

Communist dictatorship in 1989, is now peacefully

splitting into two independent states, the Czech

Republic and the Solvak Republic. The Czech

Republic is determined to continue both the good

traditions of the Czechoslovak state and those of the

ancient statehood of the Lands of the Czech Crown. It

will be a democratic state participating in all the

European integration processes. In view of its rich

ry. Dramatically expressed

by the defenestration of

imperial officials, this con-

flict marked the start of the

Thirty Years' War. The

revolt ended quickly and

tragically for Bohemia. At

the Battle of White

Mountain in 1620, the

domestic nobility was

defeated, and the leaders of

the uprising, numbering 27

lords, knights, and burghers

including the rector of the

university, were beheaded.

The Protestant opposition

was sent into exile. The

Czech lands lost large num-

bers of the nobility and

intelligentsia. Among those

sent into exile was Jan

(Comenius), the famous

founder of modern educa-

After the defeat at White

Mountain the oppression of

the Czech lands increased,

but, due to Hapsburg efforts

to influence culture and reli-

gion, also gave Czechs a

second wave of building:

baroque. It became an

example of stylistically pure

Czech lands was slowly

The hard absolutism of

the Enlightenment under

Maria Theresa and Joseph

II, who made German the

eradicated.

Komensky

language. It is, therefore, amazing that a few enthusiasts emerged in the second half of the 18th century. They began to study the Czech language and the historic rights of the Czech lands and set in train a cultural

alised Czech culture and the

During the 19th century, the language was revived, literature appeared, and modern Czech society was

This process was characterised by a shift from peasant and artisan social groups towards the intelligentsia, which became the guiding force of the nation. Czech society played the

most significant role in the democratic developments of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. At the same time, the diligence of the Czechs made the country the Empire's most successful industrial region.

Then in 1918, Czechoslovak Republic declared independence, and the philosopher and sociol-But, under the Austrian ogist Tomas G. Masaryk monarchy, the indepenwas elected its first presidence and wealth of the

The Republic was created from two markedly different regions: the fully developed Czech lands and, the then, very poor Slovakia. which was unprepared for

independent life.

But, thanks to democratic conditions in Czechoslovak Republic during the 1930s, Slovak society made significant advances, and calls for Slovak self-determination were heard.

envisaged for its future."

Any development towards an acceptable solution was, of course, halted by the events which sparked the second world war. The Munich Pact, which

ordered the surrender of territories inhabited by Czechoslovak citizens of German nationality - the so-called Sudeten Germans - was accompanied by the declaration of an independent Slovak state led by a clero-fascist regime. Slovak democrats fled into exile and to fight alongside Czech soldiers against Hitler's Germany.

During World War II, the amputated Czech lands were occupied by the Nazi army. The Czech resistance was carried out on two fronts. Czechs abroad fought primarily in the British army - airmen won glory in the battle over London - and on the eastern front as an independent force. At home, the resistance was punished by two brutal acts beginning on November 17, 1939, with the execution of students and the closure of the Czech

universities and by the destruction of the villages of Lidice and Lezaky in retaliation for the assassination of the Reichsprotector Heydrich.

commitment to democracy and a fairly well advanced

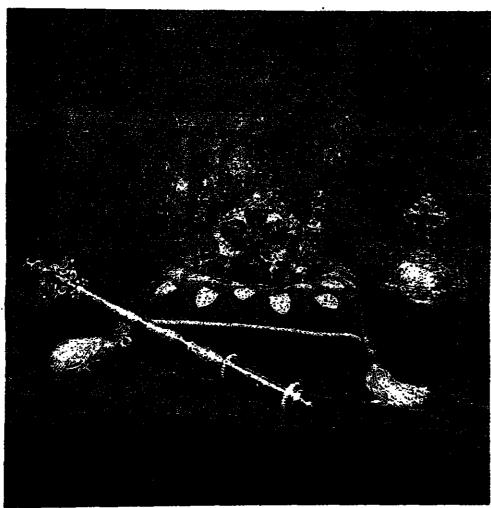
economy, which is undergoing an extensive

privatization these days, good prospects can be

At the end of the war the Czechoslovak Republic was revived, albeit under the Soviet Union's heavy

While the first post-war democratic elections were won by the left, they slowly lost support. As a result, the Czechoslovak Communist Party leadership, under instructions from Moscow, decided to prevent a second election.

February 1948, the Communists seized full governmental power and installed a Stalinist regime. At the end of the 1960s, changes in the ranks of the Communist Party were accompanied by a reform movement, which was suppressed by the Soviet occunation of Czechoslovakia in 1968. Twenty years of totalitarian communism ensued. and was only overthrown in November 1989 - the fiftieth anniversary of the Nazi attack on students and Czech intelligentsia.



The Crown jewels serve as a reminder of the country's proud history.

encompasses two distinct languages, two separate cultures and, above all, two different mentalities. Nevertheless, the legacy of the old Czech kingdom and the heritage of Czech culture have left an indelible imprint on the culture and history of many European

because of their distance wars and co-operation with from the classical power centres the Czech lands emerged as a new centre in the middle of the conti-

The first state in this region was the Great Moravian Empire, which was settled by Slavs, who

the Roman Empire. In 1212, during the reign of Premysl Otakar the first, it was recognised as a king-

As the Premyslid dynasty drew to a close, the Czech lands gained control over far-flung territories in

have been renewed.

Its location permits the



permitting the Czech

Republic to draw maximum

political and economic ben-

efit from its central

Following the 1989

democratic changes in east-

ern Europe, the elongated

Czechoslovakia looked like

a bridge for Europe, east

The Czech Republic is not

only unambiguously part of

western Europe as a conse-

quence of its location, but

because of its democratic,

cultural and industrial tradi-

tions. It meets all the

requirements for its role as

Europe's economic and

political cross-roads. Czech

involvement in groups such

as the Visegrad Foursome

and the Central Europe

Initiative bear witness to the

If accepted as EC mem-

bers, this heart of Europe

location should become

Republic's central role.

European location.

A glance at any map will longer represent a barrier, even more valuable. illustrate the Czech Republic's unmistakeable position in the middle of

Capital cities Berlin and Vienna as well as Bavaria's economic centre Munich are within 400km of Czech capital Prague. Warsaw and Budapest are just 200km further away with Strasbourg, the European Council's home an additional 20km. Brussels. Geneva, Paris and Lithuanian capital Vilnius are all within easy reach.

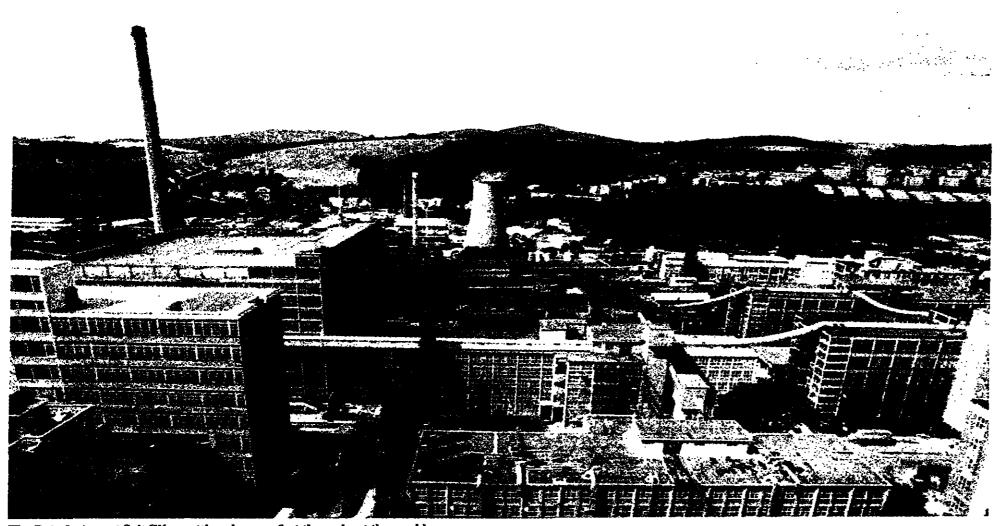
Tree-covered peaks create natural borders with Germany and Austria, into which the Czech Republic appears literally wedged, on its north, west, and south, making it simple to recognise the contours of the Czech Republic even on a map without designated national borders.

The border mountains no

The Iron Curtain, only recently drawn from Bohemia's south and west borders, separated Czechs from more than democracy. It barred almost all relations with the west, including its traditional partnerships with Germany and Austria. Since November 1989, these cultural and economic ties

Republic to hook-up to energy networks with relative ease. The CIS Transit gas pipeline crosses Czech territory on its route west. Construction has yet to begin on connections to the Transalpine oil pipeline system. In the near future the former Comecon electrical system can be connected to the western European grid. While optical telecommunication cables should soon traverse Prague, connecting western Europe with the Balkans and, in time, Asia.





The Bata factory at Svit Zlin: putting shoes on feet throughout the world

#### Vladimír Dlouhý, Minister for Industry and Trade, offers an economic update

was a successful year for the Czech economy.

The basic corner stones of the Czechoslovakian economic reforms namely, large scale price liberalisation, removal of individual company subsidies, tight fiscal policy and current account convertibility of the Crown were laid in early 1991. While they produced significant inflationary pressures these were more than offset by a budget surplus supported by the government's continuation of restrictive monetary policies.

tious privatisation programme was launched together with changes to both the structure of government and the legal framework of the Republic.

Inevitably real output fell dramatically, a situation aggravated by the huge loss of trade with the former Comecon markets. Nonetheless there are now clear signs that, after two years of reform, the recession has bottomed out and the Czech economy is one the upswing.

On the aggregate supply side, the rate of decline in industrial production has

NINETEEN ninety-two been slowed, while the construction sector showed an impressive 24% real growth during the first 10 months of 1992. This, together with the very dynamic growth of trade and services (especially tourism) resulted in constant GDP growth from January 1992 and the year on year drop will not exceed 6%. On the aggregate demand side, real consumption (excluding services) increased by 20% in both the second and third quarters of 1992. Investment activity re-emerged and while public consumption is still stagnant due to bud-

getary restrictions, exports

have increased substantial-

Inflation is now fully

under control. After huge price increases during the first half of 1991, Czechoslovakia (and by implication the Czech Republic) now has the lowest rate of inflation of all central and east European countries. This is an important factor for both domestic and foreign investors alike. Unemployment in the Republic is very low, slightly below 3% at the end of 1992. There are obvious regional differences but in the second half of 1992 for every 15 unemployed there

were 10 vacancies. Real wages have increased by 11% and as of January 1993 the upper limit on wages has been removed in the Republic.

Czechoslovak foreign trade was severely effected by the collapse of the markets in the former Comecon countries. Nevertheless. since the second half of 1991, a remarkable shift in the geographic structure of exports has occurred. In 1992, the overall volume of exports increased by 4-6% compared to 1991. Exports to the market economies grew by more than 20%, while exports to the former socialist countries fell by a further 40%. Total volume of imports increased by almost 20% during 1991. In 1992. EC countries took around 50% of Czechoslovak exports and the overall share of market economies, including developing market economies, is around 76% versus 61.9% for 1991.

The Trade Balance for 1992 was in deficit. However this was more than counterbalanced by the trade in services, thus generating an overall current account surplus. The Capital account had a smaller deficit and the overall



Vladimír Dlouhý

balance of payments was positive. Thus 1992 produced a substantial increase in Czechoslovak foreign exchange reserves, which now cover more than 6 months imports. By implication, this supports the stability of the Czech crown and allows for the continuation of the government's policy towards its full convertibility.

In 1992 the Fiscal policy of the Czech republic succeeded in controlling government expenditure, another distinctive feature of the Czech economy compared to other former communist countries. Transfers to companies were substantially reduced during 1992. while household transfers increased. During the first

three quarters the state budget was in surplus; however, during the last quarter it went into deficit, thus producing a balanced budget for the full year.

Monetary policy in 1992 was of a slightly expansionary nature, when the increase in M2 (33.2% in October 1992 compared to the same period of 1991) was higher than the level of price increase. This was due not only to the increase in credits, but also due to the increase in net external assets of the banking sector. Short and medium-term reform since the political credits to the private sector changes in 1989. Support to prevailed, while the credits the small and medium scale to the state-owned sector diminished substantially.

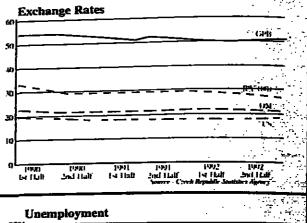
The Macroeconomic stability of the Czech economy is illustrated by the dichotomy between the stateowned and private sectors. The former suffers "pre-privatisation agony" (high levels of debt and weak management) and faces large scale bankruptcies, while the latter is starting to produce the first signs of economic growth. In selected sectors of the economy (coal mining, energy metallurgy) the Government has supported restructuring with the objective of rapid privatisation.

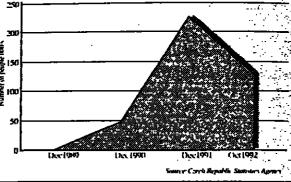
remains the government's priority for 1993, together with other policy initiatives aimed at privatisation, the opening of the financial and capital markets, liberalisation of imports and export promotion. The government is ready, within the constraints of its budget, to participate in the financial restructuring of large industrial companies. The tax reforms that were introduced on January 1, 1993 are viewed as one of the major acts of economic enterprises will also continue along with the development of job creation and regional policies.

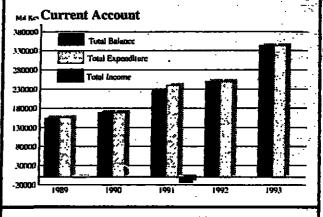
Macroeconomic stability

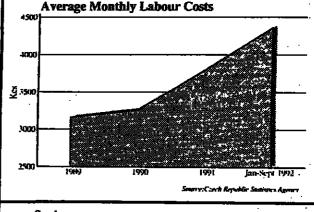
In summary the Czech economy is in good shape. Notwithstanding the split, the government of the new Czech Republic looks forward to 1993 with confidence. Although inflation may grow at between 15% to 18%, 80% of which is because of the one off effect of the imposition of VAT, we forecast a GDP growth of between one and two percent, unemployment of around 5% and a balance of payments surplus for the

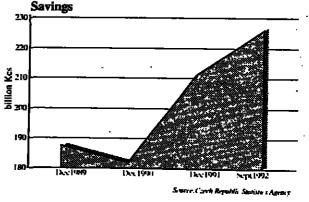
#### **Key Economic** indicators

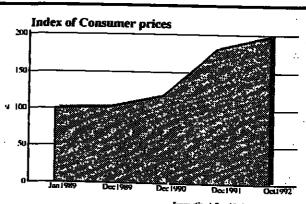


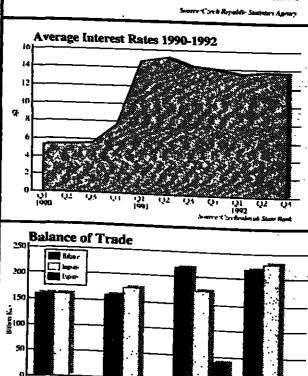












#### New lifestyles for a new age: changing Czechs

CZECH lifestyle has dra- between the state and primatically changed as a consequence of the political and economic upheaval that has transformed the country since the Velvet revolution Of 1989 Previously rooted in socialist egalitarian ideology, it bore little resemblance to the western way of life. Uniformity, not only ideological, but covering all aspects of everyday life was enforced by the governing Communist Party.

The collapse of the communist regime sent a shock wave through Czech society which had been conditioned to a drab and grey existence. Different social groups reacted to the sudden ideological and political freedom with varying degrees of intensity and economic reform, leading to the introduction of a market system. has had a dramatic impact on every individual. Ownership was divided

vate sector, and socio-economic classes began to emerge as a result of the reintroduction of the wealth creation process.

It was this restoration of the principle of private ownership which became the driving force behind the population's realisation that they are responsible for their own fate. This, in turn, has led to new life styles.

Minor factors attesting to these changes can be seen everywhere. On buses, streetcars, and subways, every other passenger is studying a foreign language. Fashionable clothes are now commonplace on Prague's streets. Judging by the attitude of workmen, it is possible to immediately recognise who works for the state and who is employed by a privatised company. Minor soccer clubs are suddenly suffering



More leisure: more pleasure

from a shortage of players.

Indications of the changing life style are appearing in family life. People used to seek work in the areas where they lived, now families are moving to take advantage of better pay and

more interesting careers. It used to be the case that both spouses in a marriage worked but increasingly tude to work. women are staying at home with their children and their husbands are returning home from work late in the

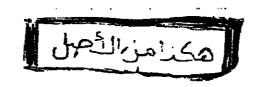
The basis of the new Czech life style is, in essence, this changing atti-

This trend is not progressing at the same speed and to the same extent everywhere - the pace is slower where the economic transforma-

tion is having an unfavourable impact on the standard of living or where artificial employment sur-

But the key factor is that jobs - to which the Czech people had a legal claim until 3 years ago, and which were not highly-valued have become of paramount importance in the value system and are significantly influencing the style and quality of life.

Economic reform and this change in attitudes that has gone with it, would never be possible, however, without spiritual freedom. This is manifest in the renaissance of university theology departments, the availabilily of previously proscribed books and the modified repertoires of theatres. But most impmortant of all the people now have choices and a specific life style cannot be imposed on anyone.





November 1990: George Bush appears before the Federal Assembly, the first US President to do so.

# Foreign policy covers all points of the diplomatic compass

Martin Weiss talks to Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec about the agenda of the new Republic.

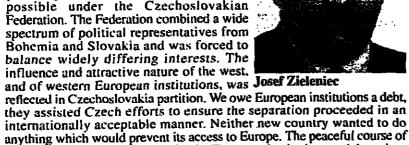
new European republic. How will the foreign policy of the Czech Republic differ from that of the Czech and Slovak Republic which, ufter all was a

Answer: You can see the changes in foreign policy from a quick glance at the map. Two new countries now exist in somewhat different geopolitical situations. Such factors are among the fundamentals of foreign policy, regardless of the political orientation of the government in power. The Czech Republic has lost direct contact with the Danube region, the traditional route to south east Europe, and with the former Soviet Union. For the first time in our history, Hungary is no longer our neighbour. Also, as this country has grown smaller, the relative weight of our neighbours has increased. So our policy is now more markedly connected with the policy of

the west and with the fate of western Europe than before. It is certainly a

different position to that enjoyed by the former Czechoslovakia. But it can be seen as a return to the traditional position of the

Our general policy thrust towards integration with western Europe will now be much more straightforward. The Czech Republic's government coalition is more politically oriented towards the west than was possible under the Czechoslovakian spectrum of political representatives from balance widely differing interests. The influence and attractive nature of the west,



the separation is also a victory for the European institutions and the values that they represent in our eyes. Question: What will be the impact on this region of the creation of two

new Central European countries? Answer: There will be certain changes in emphasis. We were a member of the Visegrad Troika, which was an association of the former communist countries of central Europe - Hungary and Poland. We still have many common interests and, to a great extent, the same problems. The separation of Czechoslovakia has made the Troika a foursome - the Visegrad group. The new Slovak Republic has become a key force in this region since Hungary has no border with Poland and we have no border with Hungary. All such contacts must be made through Slovakia, the cross-roads of the group. Future relations between Slovakia and Hungary will determine how

long the Visegrad group will hold together. Question: Do you believe that the partition is a blow to the Civic Democratic Party, or is it to their advantage?

Answer: In recent years, especially in the election campaign, the CDS made great efforts to try and hold the common state together. We were the only party with members throughout the Federation. So obviously, the

Question: On 1 January 1993 you became a government minister of a separation means that our efforts were not successful, but our lack of success is a symptom of a movement in the country, which has roots far deeper in history than the election of personalities or parties, in Slovakia or Bohemia. This process cannot be stopped. If the electoral results in Slovakia had been different, perhaps the separation would not have come about now or in this manner. But it was inevitable.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that there is a great difference between this movement and similar current attempts in other countries. Despite exaggerated passions, we came to resolution through the law and by mutual agreement. This alone is a great success for the ODS, and a great personal success for Vaclav Klaus.

Question: Europe believed it had a moral debt to Czechoslovakia over its

tragic fate after Hitler's Munich pact. Do you think this affection may fude? Answer: Czechoslovakia, or more precisely its communist government, tried to exploit such sentiments over the last 40 years. We wish to be judged on our own merits and are not interested in feeding philosophy to the people. This government is more concerned with the attitude towards life which is generally accepted in this country. We want to build foreign policy on the foundation of a healthy society, accepted by the world because of its decency and conduct. To achieve this end we do not need to draw on past grievances.

Question: Don't you think that the only real chance for the new republic is a favourable economic environment?

Answer: I have already stressed how important we feel it is that the country we build and the society we live in is accepted at home and abroad So having an economy which functions well is essential. We do not want to travel the globe with an outstretched hand, begging. This is an integral part of our identity. We want to create a country which can afford to be selfconfident. In order to be self-confident, we must be economically viable.

Question: Czechoslovakia has the best macroeconomic indicators of all of eastern Furopean countries. The Czech government is made up mostly of economists. The CDS election campaign was based on a successful anti inflation policy, and the public reacted to this. Does this reveal some deeper

Answer: Maybe. The government is made up of economists, which makes it a government with a solid economic basis for the future state, so our election campaign was valid. We want to build national self-confidence on this basis, not glorify the past.

Ouestion: Foreign newspapers have speculated that the Czech Republic may fall too fur under German influence. Are you afraid of this?

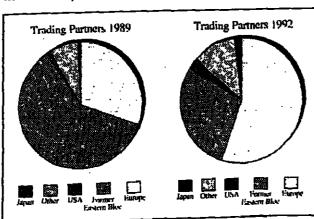
Answer: No. We have the chance to find a solution to the perennia problem of the relationship between a small and a large nation, a theme which resonates through our entire history. It is a situation which must be viewed in the context of the new face of the European continent and the process of European integration. For the first time in history, the relationship of a small country to a large country is subject to multilateral European discussion. It is realistic for us to have such a relationship with Germany. The move to an integrated Europe is an historical process which will not be completed in a matter of months or years. It will take decades, maybe centuries. But it gives us the opportunity to after our relationship with Germany which many see as carved in stone. This is a truly historic

#### **Prague goes West for trade** AFTER the break-up of tra- economy and import and mercial network although

ditional and predominantly eastern - commercial markets, Czech foreign trade has begun to recover sooner and faster than the economy as a whole.

The turnover from foreign trade began to increase in 1991, a consequence of the "double" liberalisation of foreign trade. Liberalisation firstly in the sense of the liquidation of state monopolies, which opened the door to foreign trade for hundreds and thousands of new, private businesses, who have access to convertible currencies under the current system of internal convertibility of the crown.

Secondly, liberalisation as commercial exchange abroad: the Czech Republic has a truly open export licenses are now only necessary for a small number of specific sectors. the realistically estimated exchange rate has undoubtedly also has a positive



The shifting patterns of Czech trade influence on exports.

like arms.

convertible currencies is best illustrated by the wide

The positive development The use of this access to of foreign trade has been aided by the Czech Republic's new internationassortment of western al trading partners, who goods in the Czech com-

have scrapped the discriminatory regulations formerly applied to Eastern bloc countries. Today, the Czech Republic is already classified into the so-called GSP (general system of preferences), which has substantially reduced duties on Czech goods delivered to advanced economies. The United States provided the long-withheld mostfavoured nation status, and an interim trade agreement was concluded with the EC. effective as of March 1992, within which duties on some export items were cancelled. It is anticipated that both parties will cancel both tariff and non-tariff barriers during the course of the next eight years, thus creating a free trade zone. A free trade agreement was also closed with EFTA.

The structural changeover of Czech foreign trade, with its new western bias external ramifications. In 1990, the EC accounted for about 30% of Czech exports; in 1992 this figure grew to slightly over 50%. The EC held only a somewhat smaller relative share of Czech imports. In 1992 more than 86% of the Czech foreign trade turnover was with Europe as a whole, and the American share was 4.4%. However trade with the USA nearly doubled following the granting of most-favoured nation status. At the same time, trade exchange is growing at an above-average rate with, for example, Israel, Singapore, Taiwan and many other countries with whom there had formerly been no contact at all, According to initial estimates, foreign trade turnover was 457 billion crowns in 1992, approximately 50% more than in

has had internal as well as

#### Full speed ahead with the privatisation pioneers

PREPARATIONS for the Czech Republic's privatisation programme began in carly February 1990.

Coupon privatisation whereby citizens would receive vouchers entitling them to shares in previously state-run concerns - was put forward as an ideal method for the new State.

The concept gained currency for the simple reason that the vast amount of state property and the very low level of personal savings largely excluded Czech citizens from purchasing state property.

If the pace of privatisation was dictated by the growth of savings, the process would last decades. Such a time frame was clearly unacceptable, the overriding political emphasis was for a speedy economic transformation.

To facilitate a rapid privatisation programme it was evident that a large part of the property had to be distributed free of charge. Coupon privatisation was, therefore, the only option.

Detailed preparation for coupon privatisation began in earnest in June 1991, after the enabling legislation was put in place.

The first step was to classify all state-owned enterprises into three categories: those that would be privatised in the first wave, those that would have to be liquidated, and those that, for the time being, would remain state property.

Companies designated for the first wave had to submit a project: the central document for the privatisation process. Citizens and overseas investors were given the opportunity to

The response was enormous. The Ministry of Privatisation received 11,163 projects in respect of 2,883 enterprises with a combined book value of 767 billion Kes.

stock companies, with total fixed assets of 330 billion Kes and these went forward as coupon privatisa-

Registration of those who wished to become coupon share-holders began in November 1991. Even the architects of the coupon privatisation system were astonished by the level of interest: 5.7 million

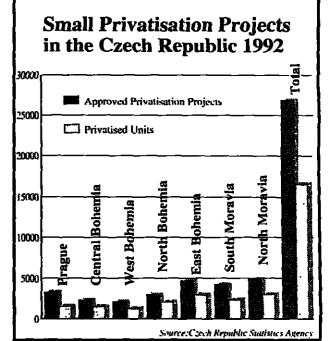
persons registered. Coupon holders could use their 1,000 allocated points to purchase shares in a specific company, or entrust them to one of the 420 new privatisation funds: 70 per cent opted for

the second strategy. Shareholders were found for all the proposed joint stock companies during the five rounds of orders which began in May 1992 and finsation in the Czech Republic. The programme has four strategic goals. The first - based on the coupon system - allows citizens to become share-holders.

The second is the restoration to the original owners of property nationalised after 1948. Restitution has proved a very effective method of privatisation more than 100,000 thousand properties have been restored so far. It also serves to underline the state's commitment to protect private ownership and to guarantee its inviolability.

The third goal is the creation of small and mediumsized enterprises. Now nearly concluded, this socalled "small privatisation" began two years ago and involves the public auction of small properties under the organisation of commissions in all 75 districts. Thirty thousand operational units were sold for Kes 30

billion, Larger properties were also sold on the basis of projects submitted, either



ished at year end. This year an extraexchange stock market will

commence operations. Approval of second wave projects, which will include health services, is now under way.

While coupon privatisa-Approval was given for tion is the principle, it is not projects relating to 947 joint the only method of privati-

directly, or as winners of competitions and auctions. So far about a thousand enterprises have been disposed of in this way.

The final goal is the introduction of foreign capital to the marketplace which, to date, has accounted for over US\$1.8 billion of inward investment.

#### Inward investors welcomed as partners in prosperity

regional policy and incen-

tives may become available

for investors in the short

Arguably the major

underlying macro economic

indicator which differenti-

ates the Republic from other

locations within the region

of Central and Eastern

Europe must be the excep-

tionally low national debt of

\$590 per capita. This figure

can be compared with its

Hungary, which has a per

capita debt of \$2,150. Not

only does low debt auger

Foreign Direct Investment in CSFR during first half of 1992 by Sectors

competitor,

nearest

tance attached to Foreign investment by the Czech Republic, Vladimír Dlouhý, the Minister of Industry and Trade has recently created a semi-autonomous body called Czechinvest, the Czech Agency for Foreign Investment.

The role of Czechlavest is clear and ambitious. It aims to raise \$10 billion of foreign investment in the Republic over the next 5 years and to do this will launch a major promotional campaign in early 1993 in conjunction with other government and non government bodies. The thrust of the campaign will be to present the Czech Republic as an attractive and strategic location for foreign investment to both manufacturing and service sector companies. Czechlnvest will encourage both joint venture and greenfield investments.

The government has selected the following sectors as priorities for foreign investment:

machine tools

equipment for the automation of industrial production fuel and energy saving technologies

development of a service sector infrastructure and especially tourism and financial services environmental projects

These priority areas are

despite the current changes being imposed by the economic transformation and constitutional reform, but indicates a relatively low tax base which will not have to service a large national debt, the ultimate monkey on the back of many developing, not to say developed

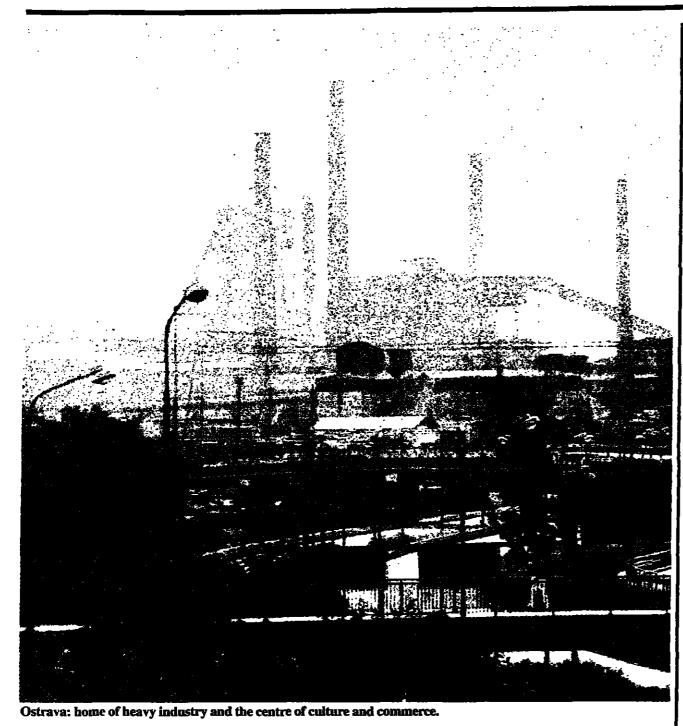
well for economic stability,

Indeed this figure probably also reflects the credit rating of the Czech

AS a measure of the impor- expected to be linked to Republic being just under 50% compared to the world average of 37.9% and with another neighbour, Poland whose rating is in the 20's.

> There are, however other factors of a more strategic nature that work in favour of the Republic. In the short term it is an attractive and cost effective base from which to supply and expand activities in existing markets. Then there is the opportunity to participate in a more of less virgin and rapidly growing domestic market. In the medium term the opportunity exists to use the Republic as a base from which to penetrate the old Comecon markets where commercial and trading links are already established.

To date foreign investment has been concentrated principally in joint ventures and acquisitions following the privatisation process. In 1991 US\$ 640 million was invested, 80% of which came from Germany. Estimated investment for the whole of 1992 will be a further US\$ 1.2 billion with proportionately much greater investment from the US and France due principally to the controlling stake acquired in CSA by Air France and the purchase of Tabak, the state tobacco monopoly by Philip Morris. The UK has yet to become a major player in the Czech



A determination to integrate with European transport infrastructure

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S entire infrastructure was, until 1989, geared towards transportation within the state and to points east. The main task of the new Czech Republic must therefore be to capitalise on its central iocation in Europe and link its infrastructure to neighbouring states.

The Czech Republic has a rail network of 9,500 kilometres, 362 kilometres of motorways and 55,517 kilometres of roads as well as a network of waterways. In 1991, 600 million tonnes of freight and 4.5 million travellers traversed the intrastate system.

There is a general preference among citizens for public over private transport. In the cities, nine times more people use the high quality and inexpensive public network than private means. While, in the suburbs, the ratio of public to private transport is approximately three to two.

But the influence of private business is leading to a growth in the popularity of individual transportation.

In the freight transport sector, the decline in railway usage is noticeable because of the move away from the transport demands

my. In the last two years the Czechoslovakian State Railways, which split along with the Republics on I January, have carried some 30 per cent less freight (92 million tons) than in 1989. The greatest decrease has been in the mass transport of substrates, particularly building materials. This, together with state-regulated tariffs for personal and

of the old centralised econo-

ed great economic difficulties for the railways. By contrast, truck transportation has improved to the extent that it now competes quite successfully with western European carriers. In Bohemia, there are 30,000 forwarding compa-nies - of which 10,000 are international - with more

freight transport, has creat-

than 50,000 trucks at their disposal. But this boom has created its own problems, supply now greatly exceeds demand. CSAD, the former road

transport monopoly, which used to provide an overwhelming majority of freight and personal transportation, has been largely privatised and restructured in the last year. From CSAD's ashes, a wide variety of transport companies -

from nation-wide carriers to to Nuremberg. This should small flexible businesses have risen.

Water transport is set to be an important element in the Czech's future infrastructure. Navigable rivers already allow for transportation of substrates in significant quantities. In the near future, water routes could emerge as a basic connection with Hamburg.

Meanwhile, Czechoslovakian Airlines – now 40 per cent owned by Air France - is to continue as the flagship carrier of the Czech and Slovak Republics, even after separation.

CSA's fleet has been revamped in the last year with new Boeing and ATR aeroplanes and is now among the most successful European airlines, carrying more than 1 million people last year, up 12 per cent on the previous year.

The growth of business activities and commercial links has seen road traffic increase markedly, putting the present road system under enormous strain.

The most pressing priority is the completion of the motorway from Prague to the German border and on

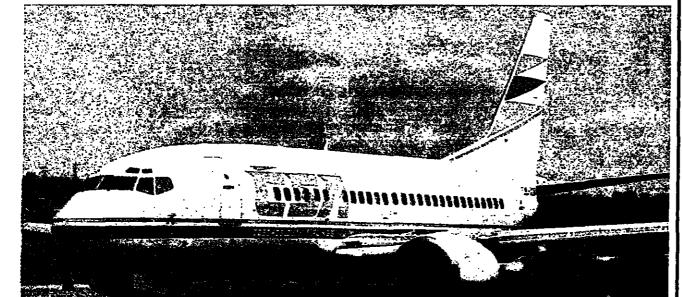
be accomplished by 1997.

The second priority is for a motorway in the direction of Dresden. By the year 2000, 264 kilometres of motorway should have been added to the 362 kilometre already in use. Such plans require investment of some 30 billion Kcs, foreign and domestic private capital is expected to account for about a third of this.

A toll system on motorways is widely expected to replace the existing free net-

But railways will remain the backbone of the Czech transport system. To link with the European network, a new high performance connection will be builf from the north-west to the south-east borders of the country. Plans are for the railway to be quickly modernised and efficiency increased. Privatisation wil be introduced as soon as possible, with multiple carriers, rather than a single company operating on the

tracks. Elimination of the imbalance in competition between the individual transport sectors is key priority.



CSA takes to the skies in its new livery

#### North Moravia: the industrial heartland

NORTH Moravia is a region filled with contradictions. Bordering Poland in the north and the Slovak republic in the east, this area comprises both the most fertile lowlands in the entire Czech Republic and the nations mining and heavy heartland. industrial Ecologically harmful industrial production methods have led to bad environmental pollution in some areas. On the other hand, its forested mountains are among the best-preserved in the central Europe. North Moravia is the furthest region from Prague, and is populated not only by Czechs but also several national minorities.

"Its forested mountains are among the bestpreserved in the central Europe"

From an historical perspective, the region consists of the territory of northern Moravia and part of Silesia, located on the so-called European Watershed, with part of the territory belonging to the Odra River basin, which flows down to the Baltic Sea, and part belonging to the Morava River basin, a tributary of the Danube. The character of the region stems from the juxtaposition of mountains and lowlands, massive forests, and fertile fields, as well as from its villages and

"These new transport links with the rest of Europe should be of great benefit to the region"

The so-called Moravian Gate crosses the centre of the region, and is the only natural route from the Danube basin and southern Europe to Poland, the Baltic countries, and Russia. This potential transport thoroughfare has yet to be fully exploited. Construction of a Danube-Odra canal is at the planning stage, as are a high speed rail link between Prague and Slovakia. Krakow, Poland and the Ukraine; and an expressway from Vienna or Prague to Warsaw, and on to Moscow or St. Petersburg. These new transport links

with the rest of Europe should be of great benefit to the region. It is the most densely populated area of the Czech Republic with almost 2 million inhabitants to its 11,000 square kilometres. It is a young and dynamic region which has come into its own only in the last 100-150 years, mostly due to the development of the coal mining, energy and ferrous metal industries.

North Moravia is also the home of an array of diverse engineering enterprises producing railway coaches, machine tools, rolling mills, cement works equipment, coal combines, mining outfits and building materials, as well as electrotechnical, chemical, and textile plants. The famous Tatra trucks, produced here, have performed well in the Paris-Dakar rally and are just one example of the industrial diversity of the region. North Moravia is also rich in Agriculture, ancillary grocery industries and forestry as well as flax processing and woodwork-

The heart of the region surrounds the Odra River. The largest cities are Ostrava (330,000 inhabi-Karvina (70,000), Fridek- already begun to take

(60,000) and are mostly oriented towards coal mining and the ferrous metal indus-

Although Ostrava is the largest city in the region. and thus the natural centre of commerce, culture, social life and administration, the region is centred around Olomouc (100,000 inhabitants), which lies on a fertile, low-lying plain called Hana, approximately 100km from Ostrava. This is the historical capital city of Moravia, and is still a major industrial and transportation centre, and home to the region's University.

"There is great promise in the development of transport, communications, trade, services and tourism – economic activities all overlooked in the past"

The north Moravian mountains, Jeseniky and Beskydy, are the best known centres for tourism in the region but visitors are also attracted to the numerous historical landmarks of Olomouc and a plethora of historical sites in other towns. There are many castles and ruins, fortresses and caverns (e.g. aragonite), as well as nature reservations, hunting reserves, shrines and churches. However the region is not

without its problems. Its heavy industry, much of which was engaged in the production of armaments, is overproductive for today's conditions, and must be cut back and restructured. These ecotants) Havirov (90,000), nomic changes, which have Mistek (60,000), and Opava effect, have adversely

dard of living which, outside Prague, was the highest in the country. Other sectors of industry, where production was heavily Soviet oriented, are also undergoing restructuring, looking for new markets and changing their product lines. The high level of industrialisation has severely affected the environment, especially the air and water in the central part of the region around Ostrava and a complete solution to this problem is still many years away. Despite such difficulties. unemployment is under control (under 5%) and there is great promise in the development of transport, communications, trade, services and tourism - economic activities all overlooked in the past.

affected the region's star-

#### "The home of an array of diverse engineering enterprises'

Privatisation and the development of small and medium-sized businesses in the region is well under

Step by step, North Moravia is emerging from its recent isolation and forming new economic, cultural, and tourist links with the rest of the world. In neighbouring parts of southern Poland, which share similar conditions in many ways, efforts are being made to form a Silesian Euroregion.

The main resource of the region is the North Moravian people. Three years ago, they won the right to political freedom and democracy, and today they are co-founding a period of economic prosperity for the Czech Republic. They are determined not but to emerge at the forefront of Czech industrial regeneration.

#### an embarrassment of tourist riches

WITH its wide variety of tourist attractions and its proximity to Germany and Austria, both countries where people spend a relatively large amount on foreign travel, tourism offers the Czech Republic good prospects for tapping into a significant source of hard currency. While it does not have the natural conditions for winter and summer vacations on a large scale, like the Austrian and Swiss Alps, it is similar to the smaller western European countries, like the Netherlands, Belgium, and Denmark, which derive the greatest profit from foreign visitors' shorter trips and from city and convention tourism.

Prague, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, is the number one tourist destination in the Czech lands. It is already one of the most visited cities in Europe. Rapid investment in new hotels and restaurants, helped by large amounts of foreign capital, has so far been unable to keep step with the phenomenal growth in demand and hard-currency income from tourism is widely expected to rise still further in the

Future predictions point towards a substantial upsurge in profitable tourism to the spa towns in western Bohemia, like Karlovy Vary, Frantiskovy Lazne, and Marianske Lazne. In 1928, these three areas accounted for 62.5% of the entire country's tourist-related income in foreign currency. The unique status of these spa towns stems from the combination of world-class health resort care and the rich cultural and architectural surroundings.

Another major tourist centre is the Moravian city of Brno, a city of international trade fairs and exhibitions, dominated by a castle

transport infrastructure and an unusually lively cultural Although all of these pos-

itive features suffered a great deal during the forty years of the communist regime, a large amount both of domestic and foreign capital is being spent on their renovation, investments which will pay good

ern European levels, while expenses, especially labour costs, remain low.

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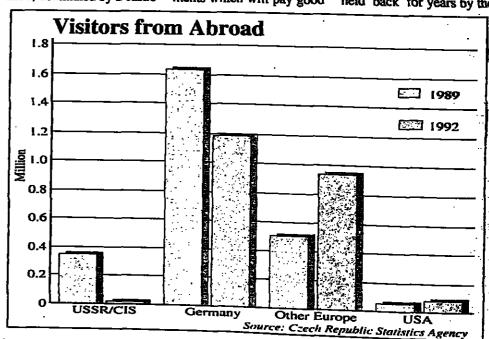
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The opening of the borders after November 1989 was not only a powerful motivation for travel to the Czech Republic, but also influenced travel in the opposite direction. Czechs like to travel and this desire, held back for years by the



infamous for the political prisoners held there during the Austrian monarchy and Hitler's Third Reich.

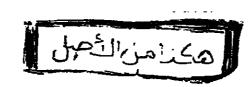
The Czech Republic can also offer foreign visitors many other cities with wellpreserved historical centres and valuable cultural monuments (Cesky Krumlov, Telc, Kromeriz) and many other beautiful areas of natural interest. It has a good dividends in years to come. Since November 1989. the number of visitors from countries with convertible

currencies has grown continuously and the foreign currency return this year already exceeds US\$ one

Services for foreign tourists are highly profitable, because prices are quickly approaching west-

communist regime, has. resulted in a boom in travel related services such as the new travel agencies which are very much in demand.

After the liberalisation of the economy and its entry into the new markets, the Czech Republic will be ideally positioned to take advantage of a positive cash flow in the tourism



#### **ADVERTISEMENT**

# THE CZECH REPUBLIC

#### Prague: the jewel in the Czech crown

PRAGUE, the capital city of the Czech Republic, is located in a spectacular valley, on both banks of the Vltava River. It has always been the political and spiritual centre of the country. Prague Castle was the seat of the Czech kings, and Prague itself has witnessed all the historical convolutions in the life of the nation. Only three years ago, the "Velvet Revolution" began on its streets.

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The first written information documenting, the existence of Prague dates back to 929 AD. Thanks to its location, Prague soon became a vital commercial crossroads, and soared to international prominence in the 14th Century, during the reign of the king and Emperor, Charles IV. On his orders and under his leadership, Prague's New Town was built on the right bank of the Vltava. The centre is Old Town Square, dominated by Prague City Hall and its world-famous astronomical clock.

#### "Since 1989 tourists have flocked to Prague in their millions"

Old Town Square, with its mix of Gothic, Baroque, neo-Baroque Renaissance buildings, is the finest example of architectural diversity and beauty in Prague.

But Prague is not only a city of beautiful architecture; it is the cultural focus of the nation. There are the art collections of the galleries, including both the art of the old masters and of the modern artists like Picasso. These unique collections have been gathered over the centuries in dozens of Prague's libraries and museums and are brought alive amidst the historical beauty of Prague by a wide selection of cultural events. The world-renowned musical festival - The Prague Spring - the unique performances of the Laterna Magika (Magic Lantern), traditional Czech pan-

black theatre are all just part of the diverse cultural life of Prague. Dozens of new independently funded theatres and clubs have further enriched the already lively musical and theatrical

Since 1989 tourists have flocked to Prague in their millions and, in return, Prague has invested heavily in its new tourist culture with new hotels, boardinghouses, restaurants, coffee houses and bistros springing up everywhere. The economic reforms have also spawned and array of new shops and private galleries and the historical centre of the city is being carefully restored to its former glory. In short, Prague is becoming more colourful and

attractive every day. Prague is also the economic centre of the republic. In addition to the central offices of state administration, dozens of domestic and foreign banks have their headquarters here, and a stock exchange is being created. Prague's geopolitical location is also perfect for political and economic conventions and important international meetings. (In February 1991, the permanent secretariate of the Committee for the Security and Cooperation in Europe was established in Prague.)

"Prague's geopolitical location is also perfect for political and economic conventions and important international meetings"

Prague has a unique opportunity to become a significant commercial centre in tomorrow's Europe. Already, many prestigious global companies have representative offices in Prague, and their number is growing rapidly.

Prague's beautiful facade also conceals one of the country's most important industrial heartlands. Large

tomime and the famous engineering companies like Avia - which manufactures light trucks, Aero - the aviation technology manufacturer, and CKD - the famous engineering-electrotechnical concern are all based out of Prague

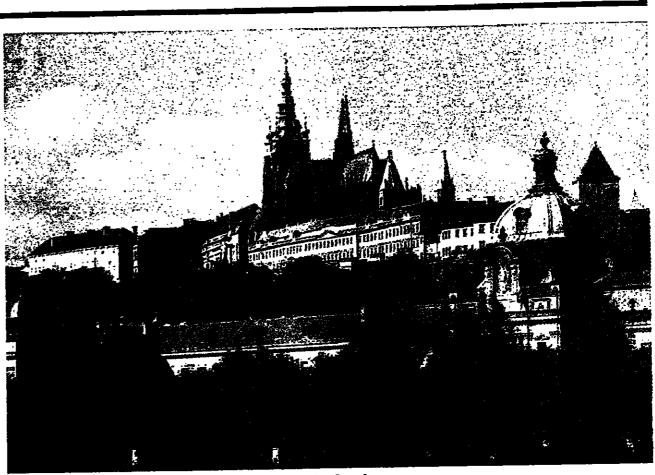
> . "Prague's beautiful facade also conceals one of the country's most important industrial heartlands"

The interest of foreign investors and companies, who have both bought shares and started joint-ventures with these and other companies is a testament to the success of the complex economic transformation that they have undergone in the last two years. In 1991, the Technoplyn Company and Linde, the gasworks

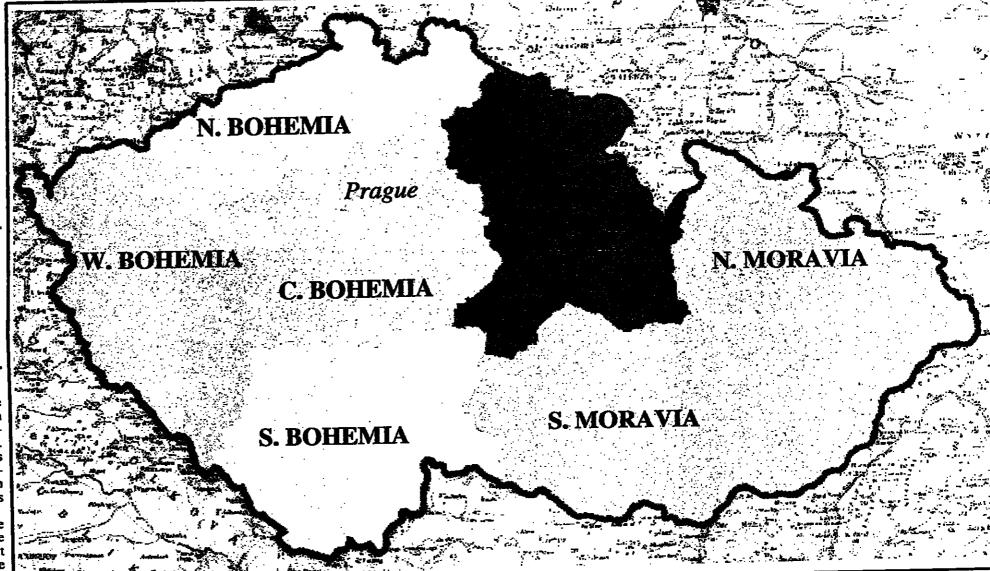
giant began to work together, Tesla Karlin started a joint venture company with Siemens to produce digital telephone switching centres, and the candy manufacturer, Cokoladovny joined forces with Nestle and BNS. Other prospective mergers are already in the pipeline.

However the traditional companies are only one part of Prague's economic share. 1,000 companies used to operate in the capital.

Following the post-1989 division of the old companies and the creation of new ones, this number has swelled to 17,000. With an additional 200,000 people engaged in independent commercial activities, it is not surprising that unemployment in Czech Republic's capital is less than one half of a per cent.



Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral, world-famous landmarks



# South Bohemia: back to the future

SOUTH Bohemia - separated by a mountain border from Germany to the north and Austria to the west - is an exception among the Czech Republic's districts. The only region without large industrial centres, South Bohemia's natural characteristics and traditions have created an agri-

accounts for its low popula-tion density. Only 700,000 inhabitants enjoy South Bohemia's spectacular 11,343 square kilometres.

With its countless ponds, forests, magical villages, castles, palaces, forts, and slender church towers, South Bohemia presents a markedly different face than other Czech regions. The

well-preserved history and clean environment of the district could have been created expressly for tourism and relaxation.

The Sumava border mountain range which is connected with the Bavarian Forest - the largest forested territory in Europe - dominates the district. A national park pro-

tects 69,024 hectares of its most beautiful areas, whichencompass one of UNESCO's international network of most valuable European territories.

South Bohemian cities are among the most beautiful in Bohemia. Founded in 1265, Ceske Budejovice, as the economic, cultural, and administrative centre of the region, is a prime example. While Cesky Krumlov is Bohemia's second most important historic reserve. after Prague.

South Bohemian towns with their characteristic surrounding silver ponds bear witness to how, during the middle ages, unfertile, swampy land was transformed into an economically priceless region. The "Golden Channel", con-structed between 1506 and

1520 by Rozmberk pond-

digger Josef Stepanek Netolicky, was Bohemia's first major artificial waterway. Some 57 ponds are still connected to it.

#### "Capital is flooding into the region"

South Bohemia, with its rich history, famous aristocratic families such as the lords of the Rose and the Schwarzenbergs, and beautiful castles, was fortunately

Local people, little affected by industrialisation, made their living in trades with roots deep in the past: fish-pond cultivation, agriculture, glass-making, brewing, textiles and log-

spared the heavy industrial-

ization. As a result, the har-

monious landscape of the

region - a UNESCO bios-

pheric reserve since 1977 -

the remarkable landscape

up to the Austrian border;

and the primeval forest in

the Mountains - Europe's

first reserve - were pre-

ging.

The first Bohemian glassworks were founded in 1553, and today the tradition is continued at numerous sites throughout the region. Brewing, which began in the 14th century, is no less ancient and famous a Bohemian trade. Today this tradition is carried on by the world-famous Budejovický Budvar (Budweiser) brewery. And so the list goes on: textile manufacturers, furniture makers, pencil makers. Ceske Budejovice's Koh-inoor Hardmuth company has built a world-wide concern, with affiliates in 16 cities in 11 countries with trade representation in a further 74 countries.

The location, hard-working people and the socioeconomic conditions introduced since 1989 opened south Bohemia to the world, and the world to south Bohemia.

Since the iron curtain fell, the economic co-operation

which always existed in this part of Europe has been revived. This area, encompassing Upper Austria. Bavaria and south and west Bohemia, is expected to produce the highest economic growth in Europe with its newly opened Rhine-Danube Channel. tourist potential and its need for regeneration and a new

communication system.

Capital is flooding into the region. Bosch is to move production from Nuremberg to Ceske Budejovice where it is building a factory with the Czech firm Motor Jikov. Porsche is establishing a plant in Cesky Krumlov with its Czech partner Jihostroj Velesin and Austrian holding company Duropak holds 40 per cent of the share of Ceskobudejovicke papirny. Meanwhile, Italian motorcycle manufacturer Cagiva is working with CZ Strakonice, and France's Telemecanique Elektropristroj Pisek.

Investment countries aside from Bohemia's near neighbours demonstrates its potential for industrial enterprise. South Bohemians have the opportunity to enhance the region, increase the competitiveness of its light industry. agriculture and support tourism, without damaging its natural harmony.



banks are gradually emerg-

ing as independent institu-

tions under their own

names, such as the

Ekoagrobanka of Usti nad

Labern, the Credit Bank of

Plzen, the AB Bank of

Mlada Boleslav. Others in

the category include the

Bank of Bohemia,

Pragobanka, Czech Bank.

Evrobanka, Coop-banka,

and regional banks such as

the First Silesian Bank of

Opava, and the Greater

Moravia Bank of Hodonin.

Subsidiaries of foreign bank (Citibank of Prague, Creditanstalt of Prague, Hypobank of Czecho-

slovakia, and others), joint

ventures with foreign par-

ticipation (Bank Austria,

Commercial Bank, Post

Bank, Skala Banking

House, etc.), and finally.

branches of foreign banks (ABN AMRO Bank,

Bayerische Vereinsbank,

Raiffeisen Landesbank) are

all part of this category. In

addition, 43 representative-

offices of foreign banks

operate in the Czech

Générale

Société

Republic.

#### Banks quickly adapt



The Central Bank: Masterminding the return of the capital markets

20th century the Czech banking system, which had developed hand in hand with Czech capitalism since the mid-1800s, enjoyed a dominant position in the Austro-Hungarian empire. By the inter-war period Czechoslovakia was one of the ten most developed countries in the world.

But this process was violently interrupted, first by the Nazi occupation, and then, in 1950, by its subjection to a state-controlled planned economy. Since model - based on the and commercial bank in supervisor.

AT THE beginning of the accordance with the Soviet model - has undergone radical change.

> Newly adopted laws governing banks - including the State Bank - and commercial activity, have created a legal framework which corresponds to western, in particular German, models of banking.

The Central Bank, recently renamed the Czech National Bank, is now an independent institution with responsibility for currency development and entirely separate from commercial 1990, however, this banking activity. As is the extremely simple economic case with many western central banks, the CNB has monopoly of the State also assumed the role of Bank, as a combined central banking regulator and Large general banks, emerging network of which split off from the regional agrobanks. Agrostate bank and took on branch networks, capital, employees and traditional relationships with major

The Commercial Bank and the Investment Bank. both part of nationwide agency networks, are in this category. Both have privatised institution status. although the state continues to hold significant, albeit not dominant, stakes through a temporary system of state monetary institutions. The state is represented by the Fund of National Property - an agency which will cease to exist after the privatisation process. Specialised institutions which previously existed independently, alongside the State Bank, form the second category. These include: The Czech Savings Bank, the Czechoslovakian Commercial Bank - which specialises in commercial foreign payments operations - and the small Trade Bank which has a branch in London and concentrates on private sector foreign payment operations.

When they were set-up, the first category large The final group consists of small purely private banks inherited significant banks which have been loans which had been established since 1990. amassed under the previous Some spring from domestic non-market principles. For sources for instance the most part their balance Agrobanka Praha and the sheets were cleansed of

transferred to Consolidation Banks - special institutions under the administration of the Ministry of Finance, which, in turn, oversees long-term redemption.

The banks' new clientele, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, represent a high degree of risk to the banking market. To facilitate such customers' access to credit, an institution was created with the participation of the state and the large commercial banks: the Ceskomoravska Guarantee and Development Bank. It assumes the guarantees for new clients and distributes some state support.

EGAP, a state-backed guarantee and insurance organisation, was established to support the financing of exports.

To date, no significant specialised investment, mortgage, or other type of institution has emerged within the system. Appropriate commercial activities are, however, already springing up within existing banks. Their sepa-ration into independent institutions will doubtless speed up in line with the organisation of the capital market. The opening of the Prague Securities Exchange is expected to take place in the first quarter of 1993.

#### The law catches up with the West

Velvet Revolution, the Czechoslovakian state has passed on to its two successors the still unfinished job of restructuring the law. despite almost superhuman efforts since the end of 1989 to modernise and humanise the legal infrastructure of the country.

Between 1948 and 1989,

the communist regime not only deformed and often devastated the everyday lives of ordinary people but consistently and carefully gave expression to its activities in legal norms. In this way, often ex post facto, it attempted to give the appearance of full legality to its interference in civil rights and liberties from the criminal law through to

family law. In the modern Czechoslovakian state, founded in 1918, society assumed a tradition of clear and detailed legal codification. A change in regime, such as occurred after November 1989, could not instantly revert to this structure because of the radical need to discontinue the legal system inherited from the Communists. On the contrary, it required a systematic reimposition of fun-

THREE years after the damental legal norms. Thus, it was of paramount necessity in December 1989 to abolish the political guarantee of communist power enshrined in Constitution of 1960, and systematically to change the basic codices.

> Superhuman efforts since the end of 1989 to modernise and humanise the legal infrastructure of the country"

First to be revised was criminal legislation. In particular, the death penalty was abolished and full guarantees of judicial review were given in matters relating to the defence of personal freedom. Commercial law was codified anew and the civil law underwent extensive revision. Both of these latter systems emphasised the significance of the courts in making decisions relating to rights.

The most difficult task was and remains economic reform, which is being carried out concurrently with the restitution of property rights; Czech citizens were

deliberately deprived of these under various pretexts by the former regime. It has been possible to create conditions so that, during the privatisation of individual ownership, all previous claims of those who had been involuntarily dispossessed of their property were fairly considered.

Vít

In the same spirit, and in common with the issue of material damage awards, in accordance with the law on iudicial rehabilitation, a revision was conducted of nearly all of the political trials of the previous 40

From the point of view of civil liberty, two legal. norms in 1991 are particularly significant—the constitutional law, on which the charter of basic rights and liberties is based; and the law which appoints judges for life.

The work of legal restructuring is not finished. But the changes to the law which have been made to date provide an unambiguous and clear basis for the future. The Czech Republic-irreversibly

enlightened by the tragic mistakes of the past-is determined to consolidate these changes and is wholeheartedly committed to completing the process of legal reform.

#### A pacesetter in the 19th and early 20th century, industry rediscovers its tradition

with their long industrial traditions, were the jewel in the Austro-Hungarian Empire's industrial crown. This was the legacy that the newly created Czechoslovakian state inherited on the Empire's demise in

the second world war. Czechoslovakia rose to become one of the ten most economically advanced countries in the world. Light and heavy engineer-

ing, including the arms, automobile, glass, textile and shoe industries emerged as the most highly-developed sectors.

Socialist industrialisation, with its emphasis on metallurgy and heavy engineering and state support of mining and heavy industries, badly damaged the previously flourishing Czech industry.

Increased consumption of electricity and the growth of steel production were cited as testimonials to the success of the centrally planned economy and socialism. This disproportionate and ill-conceived development of Czechoslovakia's industrial production made the country a world leader in energy consumption and steel production, before

After the second world war, not only did the quantity and structure of production change, quality deterio-rated and technology became obsolete.

Massive, undemanding eastern bloc markets, which absorbed goods of any quality, lay at the root of the decline. Healthy competition was eliminated by concentration of production on nationwide criteria, sometimes even on the consumption of the entire Comecon market.

Such conditions meant? that when the eastern markets - especially the former Soviet Union - disintegrated, the impact oN Czechoslovakian industry was severe. And, the blow was further exacerbated by the eastern bloc's switch to convertible currencies for commercial payments.

As a consequence, pro-

many sectors plunged into crisis. Industrial production in the Czech Republic declined by 30 per cent following 1989's democratic

Statistics are unable to illustrate the impact on industry. The fall in produc-Reaching its peak before tion varied from sector to sector, sometimes to a significant degree. While production of rolling equipment was cut in half in 1991, against the previous year's output, production of machine tools for working metals remained constant.

Decreases in production varied considerably, even among enterprises which

develop similar products. The statistics could not account for the two-

BOHEMIA and Moravia, duction fell sharply, and to almost nothing, so conflicting industrial trends continue to be an issue in the Czech Republic. Such conflicts arise from the differences in the speed and adaptability of individual enterprises to the demands of advanced countries.

Czech industry is penetrating western markets exports to EC countries amounted to 31 per cent (\$3.7 billion) in 1990 and were boosted to 40.7 per cent (\$4.6 billion) the following year. For two reasons, come the first half of 1992, exports to the EC were approaching 50 per cent (\$3.2 billion). Although very few industrial products conform to global specifications, a



decline of the state-owned sector and the development of the private sector. Neither could the figures account for other clearly conflicting boom and bust" fluctua-

Such statistical distortions largely resulted from the massive decline in several doomed industrial sectors such as heavy engineering and metallurgy.
But from the end of 1991,

the statistics were able to record that gains outnumbered losses

The decline in industrial production came to a halt, and a traditional engine of prosperity - the building industry - was boosted in the third quarter of 1992 by 25 per cent, against the same period in 1991.

New marketS are being sought by companies, the majority of which have seen their exports to the CIS fall ucts were saleable in western markets because of their low cost. And, the crown's exchange rate against convertible currencies enabled businesses to undercut global prices by 20 to 30 per

Today, Czech industry's major challenges are restructuring, productivity and technology. Entire sectors such as coal mining and metallurgy must be completely overhauled.

Worker productivity, which fell some 25 per cent in proportion to the decline in production, must be increased. Opportunities to introduce much needed new technology through cooperation and joint-ventures with foreign firms - which are able to take advantage of the sizeable Czech production capacity and inexpensive skilled labour force are now on the increase.

# Getting to grips with energy

NATURAL energy sources in the Czech Republic are limited to solid fuels: lignite and black coal, which provide some 70 per cent of all energy consumed. Domestic production of oil and natural gas is negligi-

Imports of oil to Czechoslovakia totalled 11.2 million tonnes in 1991. Of this, 9.4 million tonnes came through the Druzba pipeline from the former Soviet Union and 1.8 million tonnes through the Adria pipeline, which traverses the former Yugoslavia on its way from the Mediterranean to Slovakia. Czech Republic consumption accounted for 6.4 million tonnes of the

Since both pipelines cross areas of great political instability, the Czech government plans to connect the refinery in Kralupy nad Itavou to the Transalpine pipelines via Ingolstadt, in Bavaria. By 1995 the connection, with a capacity of 10 to 15 million tonnes per year, should be completed. Meanwhile, the Czech Republic's natural gas con-sumption reached 5.5 billion cubic metres in 1991. supplied through the Transit gas pipeline from the CIS. Potential long term disruption of gas supplies presents less of a problem than oil since the western European gas pipeline system is also connected to the Transit

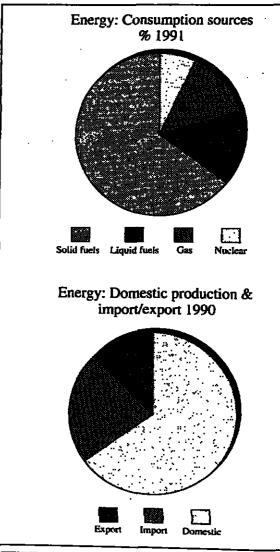
fuelled by brown coal, produce 77 per cent of all electrical energy. While the Dukovany nuclear power station produces a further 20 per cent and some two per cent comes from hydroelectric sources.

Should the two new 1,000 mega watt nuclear power units at Temelin go on-line, nuclear electricity will account for a market share of more than 40 per cent. US-based concern Westinghouse is to provide the control and fuel loading systems for the Soviet-type

Environmental devastation has been wreaked in Bohemis's north and north west regions by obsolete power stations' combustion of large quantities of lowquality brown coal. CEZ, which owns all large electric power plants and the high-voltage transmission network in the Czech Republic, plans to invest 80 billion crowns between now and 1996 to modernise and desulphurise these plants.

Czechoslovakia's energy consumption exceeds all tolerable limits. The gearing of industry to the producenormous quantities of energy, distribution network and end-user losses, and the general squandering of inexpensive energy has created a situation in which consumption per capita was 181 GJ in 1988, more than twice the level of Italy or France.

The Czech Republic's primary source energy consumption has decreased by 30 per cent since 1988. But this trend owes more to the decline in industrial production than new energy-saving technology, rational consumption, or conservation.



#### Agriculture-the land goes back to the farmer

AGRICULTURE in the dle ages, are also exported. Czech Republic, like many other economic sectors, has been badly neglected over the past forty years. The previous regime introduced state subsidies that resulted in costly overproduction of and waste of foodstuffs. Today agriculture in the Czech Republic is returning to its original balanced condition, based on demand, reasonable cost, and natural conditions.

The soil and climactic conditions in the Czech Republic are only average, and more than half the arable land lies higher than 450m above sea level. In spite of this, some sectors primarily the traditional cultivation of hops, grapes, and the breeding of fish, are very profitable.

Hops, which are the bestknown and most in demand of all Czech agricultural exports, take up 11,000 ha. of land, mainly in western central Bohemia. South Moravia is famous for its vineyards, and fish from the 51,000 ha. of ponds, built in south Bohemia in the mid-

Despite an abundance of highlands and foothills ideal for pasture, until recently the year-round housing of milk cows in large barns was encouraged. 100 ha. of productive land support an average of 89.7 head of cattle, of which 32 are cows. The change in agricultural policy after 1989 caused a change in the approach to cattle breeding, primarily by cutting subsidies for primary production, which led to increased prices and a drop in demand.

Until 1989, almost all agricultural land (4,288,000 ha.) was cultivated by state farms (33 per cent) and agricultural co-operatives (61 per cent). Co-operatives were created in the 1950s by the non-voluntary and often violent consolidation of land belonging to landowners and small farmers.

After the democratic changes in 1989, the original owners of the land were given the opportunity to demand restitution of seized property - land and equivalent livestock and equipment - and the privatisation of state farms and agricultural co-operatives began. Private individuals may become owners and partowners of state farms, and socialist-type agricultural co-operatives are being transformed into owners' co-operatives. Shares are determined by the amount of property invested and the length of employment of the individual owners.

At present, more than half a million people are employed in agriculture in the Czech Republic, of which only 9,000 are pri-

Community countries, and represents one of the longterm goals of the Czech government's agrarian program. Other goals are the decrease of farmed land by about 7 per cent, the decrease of arable land from 74 per cent to 60-65 per cent, an increase in forestry and a decrease in the number of milk cows to about .000,008

The agrarian program also assumes that some of the previously entirely production based farms will begin to redevelop their landscapes in an environmental context. In attractive areas like the Czech border mountains, agrotourism is also a potential growth industry.

vate farmers. This number

is expected to increase as

the privatisation process

continues. The total number

of people employed in the

sector should decease sig-

nificantly in the future, to

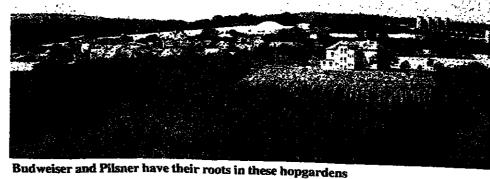
about 250,000. This predic-

tion is based upon the gen-

eral development of

agriculture in European

10 to 10 to



#### Vítkovice steels world markets



Frantisek Hromek.

VITKOVICE, the metallurgical-engineering giant, represents one of the strongest prospective enterprises in the Ostrava industrial agglomerate and the Czech Republic, despite the general trend away from such sec-

Vitkovice, which employs some 30,000 staff, has acted independently and quickly to restructure its operations, not waiting for state moves.

It produced more than 1.5 million tonnes of steel a year and exported to 60 countries before 1989.

Principle lines were steel pipes and flat products, and its heavy engineering division produced open-cast mining equipment, cokeoven plants, technological equipment for blast furnaces, foundry equipment, rolling trains, presses, steel constructions, and specialised cranes.

Crankshafts for oceangoing ships and equipment power stations – steam generators and volume compensators - are specialities.

The Soviet Union was Vitkovice's largest consumer and the Comecon countries its primary outlet.

But the break-up of the eastern market enabled Vitkovice to boost exports to market-based economies in 1991 by 26 per cent to 80.1 per cent.

The European Com-

munity is now Vitkovice's treatment plants and special largest customer accounting for exports valued at some 2 billion crowns from a total turnover of 19.1 billion

Metallurgical products currently form 74 per cent of exports, with engineering products accounting for 18.5 per cent., and investment units 6.3 per cent.

But Vitkovice aims to reverse this production and export ratio in layour of engineering products, through its 1991 restructuring plan.

Mass production of rolled materials is being limited by the company's metallurgical works, which will equipment for the transport and storage of spent nuclear

Vitkovice will also manufacture boilers again, and is currently seeking orders from large investment projects, essential for the modernisation of metallurgy plants in the Czech Republic.

Vitkovice is now a joint stock company, owned by the National Property Fund. Privatisation will start this year as part of the second wave of coupon privatisa-

New management was introduced in co-operation with consultants W.S.

#### Preciosa's crystal clear export strategy



Ludvik Karel.

A centuries old traditional glass industry is a proud boast of the Czech Republic, Preciosa Jablonee nad Nisou - among the largest producers in the world, with a turnover of more than 2 billion crowns is key to that tradition.

Although Preciosa spe-

cialises in semi-finished glass products for costume jewellery, cut glass is also an important part of this north Bohemian company's exports.

North Bohemian glass makers have always focused on exports, but after 1989 the company changed its export policy and last year sent 75 per cent of its production abroad.

Preciosa's products had a counter-value within the framework of barter trade between Czechoslovakia and former Comecon countries, under the previous centrally-planned economy. A minimum 40 per cent of production had to be exported to eastern bloc countries while domestic customers were given second priority and, only then, was any remaining production exported to hard currency markets.

Preciosa was forced to seek new markets when this



barter system collapsed alongside a temporary drop in domestic demand. It did not take long. Aside from a minor drop in production in 1990, Preciosa's output has not suffered. Preciosa found new major customers in the Far East, the US and Europe, particularly Germany.

A temporary shortage of employees in the last few months has prevented greater exploration of new possibilities. At present, Preciosa employs more than 6,000 staff and is planning fundamental changes.

Its primary goal is to increase its world market share, which currently stands at some 20 per cent. Major investment is essential in the next four years if technology is to be modernised, competitiveness increased and Preciosa's ambitious satisfied.

One of the first large

companies to be privatised, the largest share in Preciosa was awarded to Vseobecna zdravotni pojistovna (General Health Insurance Company) by the Czech government. Employee association Princo - established to safeguard the company's skills - is the second largest shareholder.

Further stakes are held by the cities where factories are located (Jablonec, Liberec, Turnov, Jabionne v Podiestedi and Tlmace in Slovakia). Seven per cent of the stock has been set aside for employee shares and a portion is reserved in the National Property Fund for future sale to Czech citizens. Meanwhile shares have also been reserved for Preciosa's customers, the private costume jewellery producers.

The privatisation project does not rely on foreign participation. But to realise its goals Preciosa is currently negotiating loans with Czech and foreign banks.

increasingly concentrate on high quality steel production. The production equipment, which is modern by east European standards comprising two oxygen converters and an electricarc furnace with complex secondary metallurgy - will be complemented by a continuous slab casting unit. An

> set for modernisation. Metallurgical production of high-quality materials will become the basis of the planned expansion of engineering production. As well as further innovation in its traditional products, plans are for production of ecological engineering such as desulfurisation and denitri-

electrified steel plant is also

Atkins, the privatisation plan with UBS in London.

Preparations have already been made to divide the company into three divisions: metallurgical, engineering and the third will combine the company's other activi-

The restructuring and privatisation are intended to attract foreign capital, as quickly as possible, to specific parts of the company, so that a synergistic effect can be achieved in the context of the new holding organisation, and so that capital sources can be effectively diversified and directed into effective fication equipment, waste production branches.

#### Motokov opens the trade gates to VITKOVICE the Czech market



Dalibor Mosovsky.

ESTABLISHED in 1951, Motokov is a trading company specialising in the import and export of machine products. Until 1989. Motokov had a 10-12 per cent market share of all Czechoslovak

exports and 30 per cent of all machine tool exports. Currently, due to the reorganisation of the CSFR. the exact proportions of Motokov's market share are difficult to estimate, but the company expects to retain its positions as one of the largest Czech trading companies in the machine tool sector.

Basic product lines have not been fundamentally changed - trucks, tractors and other agricultural technology, buses, motorcycles, bicycles and Barum tyres remain the most important products.

For a long time, Motokov's largest market was with Comecon and the

#### MOTOKOV a.s.

two-thirds of the company's business. The most important market was the Soviet Union. The changes which began in eastern Europe in 1989 led to the collapse of this market and a necessary turnaround in the company's market orientation. Today Motokov's main trading partners are west-

ern countries, mainly

Germany, Great Britain

and Italy.

This decreased volume of trade with eastern markets and the recession in the western countries has understandably affected turnover. The company is responding to this trend by targetting new territories. and by seeking new, nontraditional products for import and export. New activities have been launched: Motokov has become the representative of the South Korean car manufacturer Hyundai, as well as the US company IH-Case, one of the largest producers of tractors and agri-

other eastern bloc countries, cultural machinery in the network of over twenty con-

Motokov is presently negotiating contracts to represent several other well known companies, and is also interested in joint ventures, for example one with the travel agency Thomas

However, these new

activities alone cannot make up the drop in turnover, and the company has had to make changes in its infrastructure. The number of employees, cut two years ago from 1,400 to 1,000, will be further reduced to bring costs in line with revenues.

Motokov's world-wide

operations are controlled through a network of 23 affiliates, which own a share in firms which deal in the sale of export products. The first affiliate company established in Scandinavia in 1952. In addition, Motokov has a disclosed in the near future.

which provided at least world, and several well-tracted foreign representaknown French cosmetics tives at its disposal. Recently seven new company contact offices have opened, organised so as not to compete with the existing affiliates. Apart from these additions, the foreign network has not changed. except in the replacing of less promising areas with better prospects. For example, the representative office in Algeria has been closed and a new one has been

> In 1990, Motokov became a joint stock company within the privatisation programme. At that time, the stockholders were companies whose products were exported by Motokov, for example Skoda Mlada Boleslav, Zetor Brno, CKD Tatra, and Barum Otrokovice.

opened in South Africa.

A proportion of the shares was offered under the coupon privatisation programme, and these new shareholdings should be

#### Svit: shoes made for selling

incinerators, waste water



Jiří Capek.

rmer

BASED at the heart of the Moravian city of Zlin, the Svit shoe company - the largest footwear manufacturer in the Czech Republic with a turnover of 6 billion crowns in 1991 - was founded before the second world war by Tomas Bata.

Zlín, the firm's flagship factory, was the base from which Bata expanded worldwide. The Czech Republic's shoe industry employs close on 35.000 people. When exports to the former Soviet Union were at their zenith, the industry produced more than 63 million pairs of shoes a year, and Svit was only able to over half by Svit Zlín. At one time, the group

formed the largest concentration of shoe production in the world. But its production techniques were completely out of date. In April 1991, the compa-

ny underwent a radical restructuring programme. Factories in Trebic, Zruc nad Sazavou and Skutec, and the tannery in Otrokovice were hived-off and Svit Zlín became a joint stock company under govemment ownership.

But Svit Zlín's structural change was not the most important factor which helped the company adapt to the rigours of the market-

Svit had exported 30 per cent of production to the Soviet Union's massive, but undemanding market. Only 10 per cent went to western markets, and the remainder was swallowed up by the domestic, monopolised sales network. Come 1991

complete 50 per cent of the contracts with eastern Europe it had previously relied on. Traditional customer's decreased solvency following the break-up of the Soviet Union, saw exports to the CIS fall fur-

With its traditional markets decreasing and domes-

Production volume decreased to some 18 million pairs, reflecting a gradual transition to higher quality designs and lower pro-

Nevertheless, Svit export-

ed close on 50 per cent of its

production to the west last

duction runs. While adult shoes remain Svit Zlín's mainstay - subdivided into



tic demand cut by 50pcr cent, new export opportunities became vital. But, with European and American manufacturers facing stiff Asian competition and general stagnation of shoes sales - with the exception of sports shoes - this was not going to be easy.

work, hiking and leisure shoes - children's shoes are also an important part of the production programme.

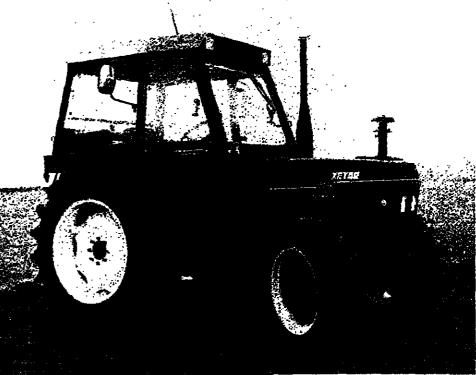
Leather shoes have become the principle product with plastic-based shoe manufacture now more lim-

Despite the restructure, Svit Zlin still employs more than 10,000 staff and even reports a shortfall in available labour in skilled areas such as the stitching workshops.

Staffing comparisons with previous years are difficult, certain production divisions are now independent and two factories, which were restored to their original owners, have left the group.

Privatisation is in hand, certain factories and activities have already left state control. The restructuring should finish before the end of privatisation, later this year. According to the privatisation plan, Svit will emerge as smaller subsidiary units bound by capital in a holding organisa-

Svit Zlín's principle goal is the complete separation of activities not directly connected with shoe production. Its second priority is the division of factories into smaller units which are better able to react to market demands and encourage greater efficiency along with foreign investment.



#### The Czech culture club re-opens its doors

Dramatist and author Petr Oslzly reveals the contours of Czech culture

"MORE than ever before, we Czechs are faced with the task of rediscovering the contours of Czech culture. It is as though the time has come again to set out on a journey where we must make notes of what we see and whom we meet. And we feel the need to invite other Europeans to come with us on this journey, so that they can see for themselves what shape our culture really takes. And as we set out, we ask ourselves: will the journey take us through the town or through the countryside?

When I try to answer this question. I grope forward uncertainly until I feel stone beneath my feet and before my inner eye spreads a vista of walls and cupolas, roofs and towers. The Italian literary historian, Angelo Maria Ripellino, wrote a wonderful book about Prague and its culture and called it "Enchanted Prague"; a title which has become a metaphor. And it is not only Prague, incontestably the heart and lodestone of our land, but the whole of Czech culture which is for me an enchanted city. Its streets are paved with time. The works of art and personalities which were born in years past in this metaphorical city still crowd its streets as though the laws of time no longer existed. So it is that these years, works and personalities live alongside the present, alongside what is born and what we do today. Let us enter this enchanted city and stand for a moment at

the cross-mads. Which path shall we take?

The greatest of the Czech kings, Charles IV, was a man of immense courage, both physical and spiritual. He built a



Mucha ado about art.

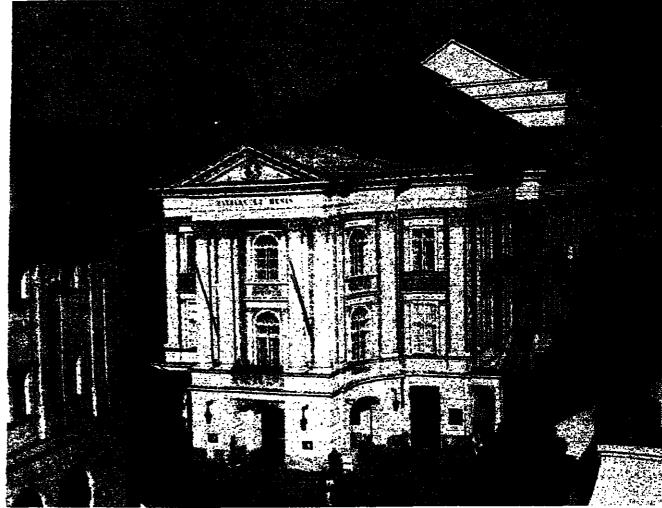
bridge in Prague which in time became a work of unsurpassable beauty; a bridge whose gothic form was adorned by baroque statues and from which the views of the historic city were of amazing splendour. Maybe this bridge is the metaphoric pathway into our Czech culture. At either end, framed by the archway of a gothic tower, swell the baroque domes of Diezenhofer's churches, intersected by the vertical spires and pinnacles of the family gothic builders, the Parlers. These architects and builders and many more consort in the streets of this city, exchange views and compare their styles. And we find the same thing in the countryside. On the border of Moravia and Bohemia there are gothic and baroque works unimaginable elsewhere in Europe: their designer was Giovani Santini, son of a Czech-Italian family.

And if we cross to the other side of Bohemia, we encounter the uninhibited daring of the baroque sculptor, Matyas Braun, who carved the figures of Virtue for the castle of Kuks – sculptures which may have provided courage for the great creations of the cubist sculptor, Otto Gutfreund. Architectural, sculptural and intellectual forms meet and interpenetrate across time. At the beginning of the twentieth century, these age-old encounters and intertwining shapes became fertile ground for the eruption of Czech cubism. Later they were the inspiration for Czech surrealism, the most important manifestation of surrealism outside France. Every work of art created in my enchanted city is a source of

However, the city of Czech culture was a meeting place not only of styles, but also of races - Czech, German and Jewish. Artists and thinkers inhabited the country houses of the Bohemian nobility, the Czech and German-speaking households of the bourgeoisie, and the narrow streets of the Jewish ghetto. Men who were instrumental in shaping the consciousness of our whole civilisation were born in the towns and countryside of Bohemia and Moravia. Franz Kafka came from Prague, Gustav Mahler from the small village of Kaliste in the Czech-Moravian Highlands, Sigmund Freud from Pribor on the Polish border, and Edmund Husserl from Prostejov in the heart of Moravia. All were of Jewish origin; they wrote in German; were born into our Czech culture and endowed with its spiritual inheritance.

The enchanted city is filled with music. Smetana's melodies flow in the waters of the Vltava, whilst Antonin Dvorak reaches across the ocean to the distant New World. It is music which, soaring up to the heavens,opens the Czech countryside to us - the countryside of our culture. It is a countryside of tunes sad and merry, a countryside which evokes beauty and wonder together with deep sorrow at the close of life, as in the nine symphonic poems of Mahler. A fresh breeze blows across this countryside, and dancing through the lanes comes a singer, a drummer and a piper whose dramatic dialogues echo themes from the entrancing operas and musical compositions of Leos Janacek.

Every city has to have a theatre and our enchanted city has dozens of them. In the senior position stands not a Theatre Royal, but the Theatre of the Estates, of our own nobility; it is better known as Mozart's theatre. The arias of "Don Giovanni", first heard from this stage, echo still



Stavovské Theatre: a must for music lovers.

between the walls of the theatre. Next comes the National Theatre, which the Czech people paid for out of their own individual contributions and which, in awe of its beauty, they call the "golden chapel". The chapel has been the cradle for the development of the Czech theatre, so it is not surprising that its offspring, the small, experimental theatres of Prague, developed their own spiritual yardstick during twenty years of working in a completely different atmosphere. It was these theatres which, together with the students, inaugurated the velvet revolution.

For I have to say that for half a century this enchanted city of ours was paralysed by totalitarianism. Early in this century it was foretold by a pale faced man who, with the intuition and understanding of the analytic visionary, saw the future city beyond the boundaries of his own age. Franz Kafka wrote in German, but was a passionate admirer of one of our best Czech writers, Bozena Nemcova, spiritual sister of George Sands. An artist and an insurance clerk, full of contradictions, Kafka wrote down in laborious detail all that he sensed would befall us in this city. His prophecies were fulfilled with perfect exactness.

For fifty long years the enchanted city of our culture was dominated by the shadow of evil. But in the darkness of captivity the names of the builders of our spiritual city glowed the more brightly, and new ones were born. It was in vain that state bureaucrats from the pages of Kakfa's

"Trial" led Vaclay Havel off to interrogation. The more often it happened, the more apparent it became that he took his place among the great who travel freely and outside time in the enchanted city. In the end all the gleams of light gathered strength to reach the full illumination of a new

You too can arrive at the cross-roads of the enchanted city (or countryside) of our Czech culture. Maybe it will be by the cobblestones of the Charles Bridge, or along the gothic streets of Cesky Krumlov, or under the renaissance arcades of Telc, or past the baroque crucifixes and through the gravestones of the Jewish cemetery in Mikulov. It doesn't matter by which path you enter our culture, but it does matter where you go: into the land of cultural tolerance in the Central European tradition: into the land whose velvet contours were so nearly destroyed by totalitarianism; into the land which was once suppressed, but is now being born into a new freedom; into the land whose thinkers incline to plumb the depths of being in which they find profound and disturbing truths.

Cultural tolerance is open to whoever follows the true European path; they will find along the way places which reflect its spirit, intellect, creativity and sensitivity; they may also share in its creation.

The gates of the enchanted city and countryside of Czech culture are open. "

#### Škoda back on the right road

Volkswagen brings investment to Czechoslovakia Skoda starts expansion

CZECH carmaker Skoda is Such unprecedented investbucking the general slump in the Western European car market. Now part of the Czechoslovakia, will allow Volkswagen Group, Skoda, produced a record 200,000 cars last year and is increasing production.

an industrial city 60km north east of Prague, Skoda is one of the oldest manufacturers in central Europe.

The manufacturer produced its first motorbike in 1899 and six years later the factory, originally called Laurin & Klement, unveiled its first light car. Aside from a brief interruption during the war, cars have been produced there ever since.

From 1925 until the end of the second world war, Laurin & Klement was part of Czechoslovakia's largest firm, Skoda Pilsen. The name and logo were changed with the change in ownership and Skoda's winged arrow replaced the traditional L&K symbol on the grille.

Volkswagen bought its 31 per cent stake for DM620 million in April 1991 in the face of a counter offer from French manufacturer Renault.

The German group is pledged to invest more than DM9 billion by the year 2000 to modernise Skoda.

ment, the largest injection of foreign capital into Skoda to double production to some 450,000 cars by the mid-90s.

A DM780 million new Based in Mlada Boleslav, tranche of stock will then be issued, boosting Volkswagen's holding to 70 per cent.

> While Skoda is a somewhat run-down acquisition for Volkswagen, it offers exciting opportunities. Volkswagen chief Carl Hahn maintains: "We have a well-trained work force producing a well-known make of car in the Geographical heart of Europe."

> At the time VW took its stake, Skoda had only been producing its new Favorit range for two years. The model marks Skoda's return to front engines and frontwheel drive after many years of producing cars with "everything in the back".

Designed by Italian bodymaker Nucio Bertone, Favorit is a tried and tested construction although it had some quality problems.

Quality is now the major priority for Skoda's new directors, the Czech Ludvik Kalma and the German Volkhard Koehler. And, plans are progressing well.

"We have achieved unique results not seen in the whole Volkswagen concern," declared vice chairman Koehler on the first anniversary of the Skoda-Volkswagen joint venture. "With more than 400 improvements in quality, we have even surpassed many of our foreign competitors."

Skoda faced a dramatic drop in demand, after its link-up with VW, resulting from the disintegration of the traditional market and domestic consumers' caution. The carmaker sold 172,000 vehicles in 1991, 8 per cent down on the previous year. It achieved a turnover of just 14.6 billion crowns (334.1 million GBP), and incurred losses of 900 million crowns (20.6





Ludwig Kalma

million GBP) that year. But Skoda is creating a financial reserve of 1.7 billion crowns (38.9 million GBP). to cover payment disability of trade partners.

A spirit of sober optimism could be said to have characterised 1992. Production has stabilised due to an aggresive marketing strategy devised by Detlev Schmidt, who successfully helped Seat back on its feet. Schmidt insists: "Our marketing strategy must be

Skoda is targeting countries far beyond its traditional European markets. "We see promising opportunities, for example, in China, Brazil, Argentina and Arabic countries," claims Schmidt.

A new factory in Mlada Boleslav which will produce a new mid-line car from the mid-90s, is already under construction. Another new plant producing motors, with a 400-500,000 unit capacity per year, will also be added to the original project.

Mlada Boleslav believes its goals are ambitious, but

#### **Budweiser's better brew**

THE Czech town Ceske Budejovice is synonymous with brewing. And the brewer - Budejovicky Budvar - is renowned in the Republic. Founded in 1895 by a group of wealthy Czech citizens, the business is built on a Ceske Budejovice brewing tradition dating back to the fourteenth century.

By the Republic's standards, the national enterprise Budejovicky Budvar Ceske Budejovice is a medium-sized brewery, with annual production of 520,000 hectolitres of beer. But its market is unique.

Some 69 per cent of production is exported to foreign markets, in particular Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Since sixties. Budejovicky Budvar began exporting to such countries, it has gradually established a position as the top premium beer on the European market.

Non-alcoholic, light and draft beer are among the brewer's range but Budweiser Budvar Lager is the company's flagship

Production is ever increasing. It enjoys annual growth rates of between 5 and 8 per cent while its exports have achieved growth rates of closer to 10 per cent and is emerging as particularly significant. Last year, the brewer's turnover soared to 750 million crowns.

Export marketing was relatively unaffected by the upheaval in 1989, since commercial relationships are long-term by nature. But there have been

essential changes in the Czech market as parts of the state distribution system disintegrated or were privatised. To take account of the such changes, Budejovicky Budvar brewery is building its own marketing network in the Czech and Slovak republics. Emphasis is on direct contact with the hotels, restaurants, pubs and shops,

five years, beer production should increase to approximately one million hectolitres a year.

A significant proportion of the new production should go to domestic consumption, but attempts arebeing made to break into new markets.

The company's financial position has improved dramatically since 1989, and the current results look very positive.



which also benefit from its modern service plan.

While many western enterprises would welcome such a difficulty, the brewer's management is tackling a major Čzech contemporary problem - insufficient capacity to meet domestic and foreign demand for its Budweiser Budvar brand by a programme of extensive investment in construc-

In 1993, a new battery of cylindro-conical tanks will come into operation and significantly increase the fermentation and secondary fermentation processes. Meanwhile, within three to

No radical changes have been made in the production programme. Last April the range was enlarged to include Budweiser Budvar Free, a non-alcoholic beer, which is already enjoying domestic success.

Structural changes have been implemented in step with changes to legislation in the Czech Republic and in the market and economic conditions.

But what has remained completely constant is the quality of the beer - a standard which has been maintained through the decades, Careful selection of raw materials, an independent



Jiří Bocek

water source, technological discipline, and workmanship all serve to ensure the beer's quality.

Although it is still a national enterprise, the brewery is scheduled for the second privatisation wave. The method of privatisation has yet to be resolved.

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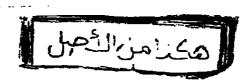
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The government has the final say over the brewer's future but foreign investors have already registered considerable interest. More than forty, mostly overseas banks and brewing companies, have already come forward with various propos-

American brewer Anheuser-Busch, which is attempting to win worldwide use of the Budweiser trademark has generated the greatest discussion through its approach.

The two brewers' relationship, as it relates to trademark law, was contractually established between 1911 and 1939. Among other obligations, the contract prevents American consumers from enjoying the unique Budweiser Budvar beer from Ceske Budejovice,



#### A renewed quest for educational excellence

EDUCATION in the Czech footing with other European lands has always been highly advanced. Ancient domestic literary monuments of the 10th Century, written in Latin, Old Church Slavonic and Czech bear witness to this tradition.

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Even in the middle ages, ordinary Czechs benefitted from education. Records show that Czech schools existed as early as the 10th Century. While at the beginning of the 15th Century, during the holy wars, a future pope visiting Bohemia was surprised to find that peasant women knew the Bible well, and that some were literate.

Prague, home of central Europe's oldest University, has always been the centre of intellectual life. Its importance can, in part, be attributed to the free exchange of ideas between Czech, German and Jewish

During the period of its revival, the intelligentsia rose to a leading position in the Czech nation's political and educational life. Their prestige contributed to the increasing emphasis on education. Translation thrived, becoming a key factor in the move to put the Czech language on an equal

languages.

Erudition, even among ordinary people, reached an extraordinary level in the second half of the 19th and early in the 20th Centuries. Knowledge of English, French, Scandinavian, Italian and Spanish as well as Slavic literature was common.

An excellent education

system was the most important factor contributing to this state of affairs. Not only was there a strong tradition of Gothic schools, the fundamentals of modern education were laid in Czech lands thanks to the Unitas Fratrum, which produced one of the greatest educational theoreticians. J. A. Komensky's (Comenius) work influenced the development of pedagogics for centuries. Few European countries can boast both elementary and secondary schools with centuries-old traditions. The Prague Academic Gymnasium, for instance, was founded in

The democratic character and balanced curriculum of Czech schools from the end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the start of the second world war was a



New technology for a new generation

model for educational systems in countries throughout the world. These fundamental traditions suffered under the communist regime, when schools were used as places of ideological indoctrination and a way of placing parents under duress through their children. Since the November 1989 revolution, the Czech school system has been gradually recovering from such repression.

Czechs now enjoy a quality of education on a par with OECD countries. Not only has the school system been released from its polit-

ical straightjacket, it is now have started to develop on benefiting from the experientirely new foundations ence of more advanced and in entirely new dimencountries. A large number of teachers of western lan-But scars run deep and guages are now working in Czech education can not be Czech Republic schools, expected to achieve fully its even at elementary level. previous standard until the Additional short-term next generation. finance for students at for-

The road to recovery is, eign universities, new forms nevertheless, being negotiof co-operation in the conated. Some 100,000 stutext of the Tempus, PHARE, USAID and dents are now enrolled at 23 colleges and universities Fulbright programmes, throughout the Republic. have all contributed to this These institutions enjoy full educational exchange. The academic freedom and are relationships between the able to assume a full role in Czech school system and those of other countries

#### oldest seat of learning Charles lege, thereby meeting modsation" of the 70's, because em society's cultural, politi-

Charles University –region's

University is central Europe's oldest academic institution. Founded in 1348 by Charles IV, who modelled the university on the Sorbonne in Paris, it preceded the foundation of universities in what are today Germany, Austria and Poland. Only centuries later did similar institutions begin to appear in eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

In keeping with the medieval concept of general studies, Prague university originally consisted of four faculties: theology, law, medicine and liberal arts.

Soon after it was established, the University became associated with the early European Reformation, through the activities of its Master and Rector, Jan Hus. Charles University became the first Reformation, or 'Hussite", university.

The university's fortunes became linked with the fortunes of the Czech state of the Estates. Following the suppression of the Czech Estate uprising, the university was revitalised. In 1622 it merged with the Prague Jesuit academy (the Klementium) and, with the benefits of the Enlightenment, Charles University gradually transformed from a religious

institution to a national col-

cal and economic require-

Come 1882 and the development of Czech national identity, antagonism obliged the Imperial government in Vienna to divide the university in two: one Czech and one German speaking. And so it remained until 17 November 1939, when the

Nazi occupiers closed the

of the number of teachers and students who took part in the Prague Spring rising of 1968. More than forty years of

such unfavourable conditions ended on 17th November 1989, when a students' strike sparked the Velvet Revolution".

Thanks to the appointment of new representatives, in January 1990 the



Czech colleges and persecuted many teachers and students.

Czechoslovakia's liberation in May 1945 saw the German university in Prague closed.

But, after a short period of freedom, the newly reopened Charles University, fell under the heavy yoke of the totalitarian communist regime.

The university became the target of communist purges soon after 1948, and again during the "normali-

research, but also in the automation of the chemical,

metallurgical, food and

pharmaceutical industries,

in medicine to track the

course of some illnesses

academic community began to remedy the mistakes of the previous era. Today, Charles University has 16 departments (including three new incorporated theology departments), some 27,000 students, and a faculty of 3,539 permanent and

visiting staff. True to its ancient tradition, the university strives to develop human knowledge and, in doing so, educate the nation and open doors to the

#### Sporting achievements reflect a national passion for games

THE Czech sporting tradi- ate the independent particition stems from two sepa- pation of Czech athletes in rate but interelated origins. the 1900 Olympic Games, physical training organization, Sokol, devised the athletic system used throughout that time in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Among its members, who numbered over a million before 1939, were some exceptional

independent within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This was of great national significance for the Czech people.

Up until 1939, Czech sports were mostly on an

sports are soccer and ice hockey, and in the last twenty years tennis has

In the late 19th Century, the even when the lands of the also achieved extraordinary slovakian soccer team twice reached the finals of the World Cup: the first time in Italy in 1934, and the second time in Chile in 1962. Both times, they were runners-up. In 1976, the team

The most famous of the club

The second favourite

sport in the Czech

Republic is ice hockey.

Czechoslovakia has won

the world championship on

five occasions: the first time

was in 1947, and the most

recent was in 1985. After

the Soviet occupation of the

country in 1968, matches

against the Soviet Union

became highly charged and

indisputably political

events, because people saw

these games as the only fair

trial of strength against an

occupying superpower. In

1969, following two victo-

ries over the USSR in the

world championships in

Sweden. Prague experi-

enced its first and only

spontaneous popular

demonstration brought on

The successes in tennis of

Ivan Lendl and Martina

by sporting success.

teams is Sparta Prague.

Jan Zelezný: hi-Czech performer at '92 Olympics in Barcelona were European champions. amateur level and depended

gymnasts who went on to win Olympic medals. The second sporting tradition was inspired by the English model. The Czech athletic environment of that time. especially in the areas of cycling and rowing, was directly influenced by sports-loving English businessmen who had a significant presence in Prague during the 1880s.

The first soccer match - in a social setting - was attended by the highest nobility and even the Cardinal of Prague played between the Prague Slavia club and Oxford in 1899. The Czechs were also successful in sports diplomacy. In 1894, one of the founding members of the International Olympic Committee was Jiri Guth-Jarkovsky, a gymnasium professor and longtime friend of Pierre Coubertine. He and his friends managed to negotion the support of patrons to fund their activities. Financing, and therefore the participation of Czech athletes in the Olympic Games often depended on public contributions. This situation changed with the coming of the Communist regime 1948. Communist Czechoslovakia displayed its physical prowess to mask its ideological shortcomings and used its indisputable sporting successes to cover up its economic failures and deep social cri-

sis - individual Czechs and Slovaks won many gold medals in the Olympics and World Championships. Athletes, such as the track star Emil Zatopek and the gymnast Vera Caslavska, became famous throughout the world, solely on the basis of their talents and

The people's favourite

over the world. Even though both of them emigrated during the time of Soviet nor-American citizens, the sporting public still considers them Czech sporting personalities. The Czech tennis school of today owes its success to the example they have given to youth; the large number of juniors tournaments backed by tremendous parental enthusiasm will hopefully produce many more players who sacrifice a great deal. so that their children will grow up to be like Lendl and

Navratilova are admired all

Czech sport has lived through two great waves of migration. The first wave consisted of hundreds of leading athletes and dozens of coaches who fled the totalitarian state as political refugees. Many went on to achieve outstanding success in their new domiciles.

Navratilova.

The second wave of migration came after the democratic changes of 1989, when the borders were opened and the elite of the sporting world began to turn professional. Many of the soccer and ice hockey players were offered advantageous contracts abroad. The world's most famous ice hockey league, the National Hockey League of Canada and the USA, employs nearly 30 Czech and Slovak players. Of the soccer players, at least two goalkeepers are playing in England: Miklosko with West Ham United, and Stejskal with Queens Park Rangers. Of the forwards. Danek, in Austria and Skuhravy, in Italy, are

becoming famous. At the Olympics in Barcelona, the CSFR won four gold, two silver, and one bronze medal, and finished an overall 15th. In addition to the golds of marksman Petr Hrdlicka and water slaiom specialist Lukas Pollert, Czech athletes also fought their way to two highly prestigious gold medals in track and field: Robert Zmelik in the decathlon and Jan Zelezny in the javelin.

#### **Inventions: pride** in the past, hope for the future

malization and became trical engineering and admixtures. Heyrovsky chemistry are three fields in which Czech technicians and scientists, by virtue of their remarkable discoveries, have been able to cross borders and write their names for eternity into human history.

The first Czech inventor to reach world-wide significance was Josef Ressel (1793-1857). On the basis of experiments with the Archimedean screw, he developed a new kind of propeller, which was first tested in the port of Trieste. Ressel, however, did not receive recognition until after his death, when his propeller began to be massproduced.

Frantisek Krizik (1847-(941) experimented with the development and production of electronic equipment, especially in the field of direct currents. Krizik's exact regulator of the electric arc lamp had worldwide importance, as this lamp became widely used due to his efforts. Money from the license of the regulator combined with Krizik's inventiveness led to the construction of the first electric power station, tram lines and electric railway in the Czech lands.

Perhaps the most important Czech contribution to world science was the work of two chemists, Jaroslav Heyrovsky (1890-1967) and Otto Wichterle. The former invented the polarograph, the latter contact

The discovery of the polarographic method was not the actual goal of Heyrovsky's research, but was a by-product of his attempts to explain irregularity in dripping mercury. This he was not able to achieve, but in measuring electric current on the galvanometer, by which he wanted to automate the performance of the drops, he realised that by measuring the current running through the liquid, he could determine its consistency,

MACHINE industry, elec- including small material published his polarographic method in 1922, and built the first polarograph three years later. Today polarog-

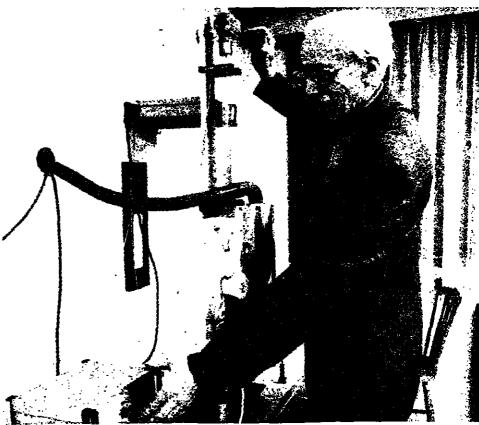
ecology to control atmosinvention, Heyrovsky was awarded a

Wichterle's invention of the contact lens came about by an accident of discovery similar to that of raphy is used not only for Heyrovsky's polarograph.

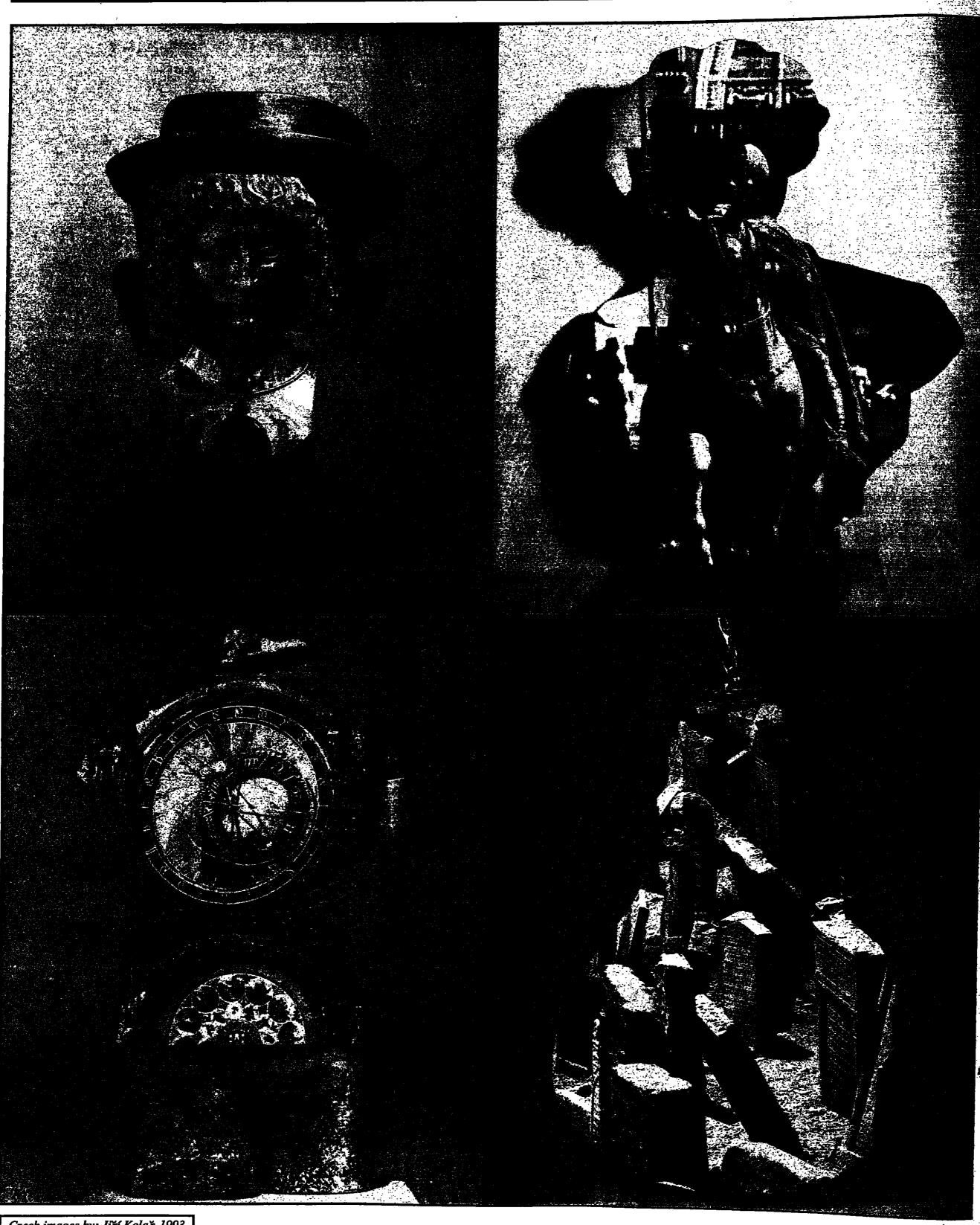
Wichterle was trying to develop an optical prosthesis which would not be rejected by the eye. In testing synthetic hydrogels, he including cancer, and in discovered that this new material had excellent optipheric conditions. For his cal qualities. At that Jaroslav moment, the discovery of contact lenses was only a step away and Wichterle made the first set at his home with a machine constructed from a child's building set!



Jaroslav Heyrovský: inventor of polarograph



Otto Wichterle: creator of the contact lenses



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